

Chirac denies secret hostage deal

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac Sunday denied speculation that the release from custody of a man linked to bombings in Paris was part of efforts to free three French hostages in Lebanon. Lebanese-born Mohammed Moushjaer was freed Friday after a year in custody on suspicion of being chief ideologist of the Solidarity Committee for Arab Palestinian Prisoners in the Middle East, which claimed responsibility for a 1985 wave of bombings in which 13 people died. A magistrate said there was insufficient evidence to warrant his continued detention. Moushjaer's release coincided with media reports that Chirac, a candidate in next month's presidential election, would fly to an Arab capital for talks on freeing the three — Marcel Carton, Marcel Fontaine, and Jean-Paul Kauffmann — who have been held by pro-Iranian extremists for three years. "The liberation of Moushjaer, which was the act of a judge, has no connection, remote, direct or indirect, with the problem of the French hostages or foreigners held in Lebanon," Chirac told a television interviewer.

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Saeb calls for end to hunger strike

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul-Hamid Al Saeb has praised the courageous stand of the Al-Birah-based Family Advancement Society Chairperson Samiha Salameh Khalil who is on a hunger strike in support of the uprising in the occupied territories and called on her to end her hunger strike. In a statement issued here Sunday, Saeb said Khalil and her colleagues had conveyed their national message.

PLO fires rockets

SIDON (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Sunday it fired rockets at northern Israeli settlements to avenge two Israeli air strikes into south Lebanon. In a statement issued in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon, the PLO said its fighters fired eight Soviet-made Grad rockets into the Galilee settlements of Kiryat Shemona and Metulla.

Nir resigns

TEL AVIV (AP) — Amir Nir, prime minister Yitzhak Shamir's adviser involved in the Iran-contra affair, has resigned from the post, a government official said Sunday. The official told the AP that Nir has announced his resignation several days ago and that the resignation will take effect April 1.

Mitterrand remains ahead in opinion polls

PARIS (AP) — New public opinion polls published Sunday, the first since Socialist President François Mitterrand officially announced his re-election bid, show the incumbent remaining comfortably ahead of all his conservative rivals with about 38 per cent of the votes. The same polls, one by the Louis Harris Organisation and one by IPSOS, also indicate conservative Premier Jacques Chirac is widening his lead over former centre-right Premier Raymond Barre.

Baker: Iran-contra pardons unlikely

WASHINGTON (R) — White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, in a television interview broadcast Saturday, said it was highly unlikely President Reagan would issue a pre-trial pardon for former aides indicted in the Iran-contra scandal. Baker, interviewed by the Cable News Network (CNN), said Reagan was committed to allowing the legal process to reach a conclusion before considering pardons for former White House aide Oliver North and former National Security Adviser John Poindexter.

Shin Bet chief quits

TEL AVIV (AP) — The head of Israel's Shin Bet service resigned from the post after ruling over the agency for more than 11 years on two periods, the government announced Sunday. Yosef Harmelin, born in Vienna in 1923, joined Israel's secret service soon after the Zionist state came into being in 1948.

Cameroun beats Nigeria

CASABLANCA (R) — Cameroun beat Nigeria 1-0 (half-time 0-0) to win the 16th Africa Nations Cup soccer championship Sunday. Scorer: Kunde (55th minute penalty).

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Soldiers storm W. Bank village; 4 Palestinians killed

Mass arrests, economic siege fail to dent Palestinian revolt

MEITHALUN, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israel troops on a pre-dawn raid to arrest Palestinians shot and killed three Palestinians in this remote village Sunday and soldiers killed a fourth Palestinian in an incident involving an Israeli bus that blundered into an Arab town.

The deaths raised to 118 the number of Palestinians killed in 15 weeks of violent protests against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, according to U.N. figures. One Israeli soldier has been killed. Soldiers entered this village of 6,000 some 65 kilometres north of Jerusalem overnight to arrest

PLO welcomes Shultz' talks with PNC members as important step

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq fired missiles into each other's capitals in a brutal long-range duel Sunday as fierce battles continued in northeast Iraq in strategic heights that overlook a sizeable hydroelectric dam. Shipping officials reported Iranian gunboats attacked the 24,529-ton Indian tanker Jainarayan Vyasa in the southern Gulf Sunday, wounding one crewman and setting it on fire. The latest victim of the so-called "tanker war" was hit apparently in reprisal for Iraqi air raids on two tankers off Iran's Gulf coast Thursday night. The Iraqis fired a long-range Al Hussein missile into Tehran, a city of six million, at 7.30 a.m. (0430 GMT) after vowing to "level Iran's cities," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. Minutes later, another missile was launched on Tehran and two into the central city of Isfahan, ancient capital of the Persian empire, INA said.

The Iraqis said the missiles hit residential neighbourhoods, causing unspecified civilian casualties. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Revolutionary Guards fired two missiles at Baghdad, which has a population of five million, 10 minutes later. The agency said the missiles were aimed at "two military targets" in retaliation for Iraqi missiles that hit Tehran Saturday, killing at least seven people. Baghdad radio reported only one Iranian missile hit Baghdad, exploding in a residential district and demolishing houses, shops and cars. It said there were

down, "the commander of the force fired," the spokesman said. The army confirmed three Arabs were killed. Villagers denied the soldiers were attacking. They accused soldiers of shooting at cars taking wounded to hospitals. Ahmad Abdul Rahman, a village leader, stood near the cemetery with its three fresh graves and told the AP soldiers came to his home at 3 a.m. "and asked me to guide them to the wanted men." He said troops arrested 10 to 12 men before shooting broke out. A fourth Palestinian was shot to death when Palestinians attacked troops who came to the rescue of an Israeli bus in Safit, 30 kilometres north of Jerusalem, the army spokesman said.

"many civilians killed or wounded, including women and children." The radio made no mention of a second Iranian missile. Iraq has fired 120 long-range missiles into Tehran, Isfahan and the holy city of Qom, seat of Iran's religious hierarchy, since Feb. 29.

The Iraqis have reported firing 45 long-range missiles into Baghdad and dozens short-range projectiles into other Iraqi cities in that period. Hundreds of civilians on both sides have been killed in the latest resurgence of the "war of the cities." Tehran Radio reported that the Iraqis also fired four missiles at

"industrial and military installations" in the strategic southern Iraqi port of Basra, and two other border towns further north Sunday. Basra, Al Amara, a major military staging area to the north, and nine other towns in the southern and central sectors of the front line, were pounded with artillery fire Saturday and Sunday, Baghdad Radio said.

Fighting in northeast

IRNA, in a series of reports from Iraq's northern Sulaymaniyah province, said guards had advanced to within eight kilometres of a dam and by-electric power station on Lake (Continued on page 2)

The spokesman said the driver mistakenly entered the village and Palestinians stoned the bus. Troops that arrived to help were also attacked with rocks and bottles, forcing the commander to fire, he said. The Palestine Press Service identified the slain boy as 14-year-old Yasser Al Khirbawi. In Taibe, police arrested six Arabs who allegedly threw five firebombs at a police station, Israel Radio said. Despite mass arrests, increasingly severe economic sanctions and Israeli attempts to disrupt and demoralise underground leaders of the uprising, widespread protests were again reported in the West Bank.

U.N. relief workers in the Gaza Strip said the army had arrested hundreds of local Palestinians in nightly raids under curfew in the last few days.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said in a statement that 400 Palestinians had been beaten by troops in a single week in the Gaza Strip alone. In an attempt to break long-running commercial strikes, Israeli troops barred all Gaza shops from opening for the last three days, including food markets and pharmacies, residents said. Several traders who violated the order were arrested, they said. A merchant who complained said the military governor of Gaza City told him shops would be closed at least until the end of the month. U.N. officials also said the army cut off electricity supplies to the Deir Al Balah refugee camp, one of four Gaza Strip camps (Continued on page 2)

King briefs Sytenko on talks with Zia

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday briefed a Soviet envoy on the outcome of his talks with Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq on Afghanistan during his recent visit to Pakistan. The Soviet envoy, Mikhail Sytenko who is the Moscow's roving ambassador, voiced his country's appreciation of King Hussein's endeavours in this respect, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Sytenko was received by the King last week before the Pakistani trip to discuss the Afghan question. On Friday Jordan expressed satisfaction with the Soviet Union's decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday confers with Soviet envoy Mikhail Sytenko (Petra photo)

Cabinet reshuffles senior employees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday carried out reshuffles among government employees which included the appointment of Mu'taz Bilbeisi as Water Authority of Jordan secretary general, and Mahmoud Talbouni as Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications secretary general. The Cabinet ended the appointment of Abdullah Al Jazi as Ministry of Communications secretary general and appointed him as Hijaz Railway director general. The Cabinet, headed by Prime

Minister Zaid Rifai, also appointed Ghazi Rifai as director general of the Post and Postal Saving Corporation and Mohammad Khair Mammar as Ministry of Youth secretary general and Mohammad Abu Tayyeh as Public Transport Corporation director general and Haidar Mahmoud as consultant at the Prime Ministry.

Ibrahim Mahadin, the present director general of the Public Transport Corporation was placed on the government's Retirement Fund while Ministry of

Communications Secretary General Mansour Ibn Tarif was put on partial retirement. The reshuffles are effective April 1.

The Cabinet had earlier approved new regulations governing the affiliation of ministries with government departments and public institutions. It endorsed the kidney fund budget, the health insurance fund budget and an amended law to the Ministry of Information law as a result of the abolishment of the Department of Press and Publications.

Iran, Iraq step up missile duel; fighting intensifies in northeast

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Sunday welcomed talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and two Palestinian leaders in Washington. "We consider the meeting an important political step because it was between Shultz and two members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the highest legislative body in the PLO," said Bassam Abu Sherif, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian-Americans Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughud met Shultz Saturday and said they had told him the PLO was the legitimate representative of the Palestinians and any peace settlement must provide for Palestinian independence. The State Department said Saturday Shultz would return to the Middle East next Sunday in a fresh bid to win acceptance for U.S. peace proposals for the region. Abu Sherif told Reuters that Arafat had authorised Said and Abu Lughud to meet Shultz and they had reported on their talks to the PLO chairman. He said their report was now being studied by Palestinian lead-

ers. He reiterated a PLO demand that it should attend any international Middle East peace conference on an equal footing with all other parties. He said Palestinians wanted to end Israel's occupation of Arab territories and sought recognition of their right to self-determination, which he added was the key to real peace. Israel opposed Shultz' meeting with the two Palestinians on the grounds that it violated U.S.

policy not to deal with the PLO. U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the Palestinians had conveyed no message from Arafat and had not described themselves as PLO representatives. The U.S. peace plan calls for an international conference in mid-April followed by talks on interim Palestinian "self-rule" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and direct Arab-Israeli discussions.

Vanunu sentenced to 18 years in prison

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu was sentenced to 18 years in prison Sunday for spilling Israel's "atomic secrets" over the front page of a British newspaper.

A three-judge court, which last week convicted Vanunu of treason and espionage, could have imposed a maximum life sentence. Twenty scientists, including 12 Nobel Prize winners, had appealed for leniency. Vanunu, 34, worked at Israel's top-secret Dimona nuclear reactor in the Naqurah desert for nine years before telling his story to London's Sunday Times in September 1986. His trial was held behind closed doors. Prosecutor Uzi Hasson told reporters the court considered the circumstances in sentencing Vanunu to only 18 years. He did not elaborate. Life imprisonment normally means 20 years in Israel. Vanunu's brother, 26-year-old Asher, said the family would continue insisting on the prisoner's innocence.

"I feel an injustice was committed against him. The trial was not conducted legitimately. No-one was inside to see what was going on," he told reporters. Under Israeli laws, the former nuclear technician could be freed for good behaviour as early as November 1998, at the age of 44. Defence attorney Avigdor Feldman submitted a petition signed by the 20 scientists at a brief hearing before sentence was imposed. The court accepted the petition, and Vanunu himself briefly addressed the court. "We appeal to the Israeli court to recognise that Mordechai Vanunu is a man of conscience, deeply disturbed by his role in a nuclear weapons programme, who first sought religious guidance and then decided to make public his concerns," the petition said. The 20 signatories included the 1962 Nobel Peace prize winner American Linus Pauling and American astronomer Carl Sagan.

Arab Bank holds shareholders meeting

AMMAN — The Arab Bank held its 58th general assembly meeting at the Arab Bank headquarters in Amman under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Majid Shoman, the bank's board chairman. The meeting was attended by Mr. Radi Ibrahim, comptroller of companies at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply and Arab Bank shareholders from various Arab countries. The meeting discussed the bank's balance sheet, the profit and loss account and the board of director's report. (See pages 4, 5 and 6)



Abdul Majid Shoman

Plague of locusts threatens North African agriculture

By Rachid Khairi
The Associated Press

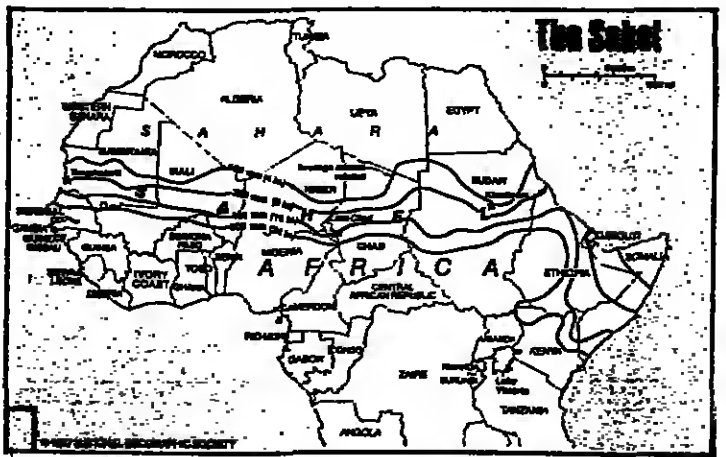
GHARDAIA, Algeria — As the sun rises over this town on the edge of the desert, gradually increasing in warmth and intensity, the sky suddenly darkens and a shadowy cloud whirls in from the south. Local residents and European tourists, snapping their souvenir photographs, stop and crane their necks upward. A swarm of millions of small, grasshopper-like creatures pass over the town this Saturday morning. They are migrating locusts guided by some mysterious instinct and helped by the wind on their way north towards Algeria's prime agricultural area. The ravenous insects, which can gather in swarms of more than 100 billion, threaten all of North Africa's long-term food supply with the greatest invasion in 30 years.

According to experts, the locusts have spread in the past few weeks over much of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Libya and could devour 20 to 30 per cent of the crops in the region. Climatic conditions have been perfect for the locusts — heat, high humidity from abundant rain and wind.

The buzzing swarm passing over Ghardaia, 350 kilometres south of Algiers, swept by in five minutes. The scene is the same all over southern Algeria. Those who make their living from the land are forced to defend themselves, aided by their governments and a huge international effort.

Reminders of the past
Older folks here remember the ravages of 1954-56, when similar swarms came up from the Sahel, flying over this area to the high plateau to the north, attacking vegetation and devastating a large part of the fertile plains of Algeria.

Saturday's swarm did not seem to be too big, covering about 500 square metres, "but it can devour 60 tonnes of vegetable material each," said an agriculture expert working at the anti-locust command post in Ghardaia. The struggle against the locusts began here at the beginning of the invasion in October, but the insects have been reinforced by new arrivals coming from Mauritania, reproducing at such a rapid pace that the emergency measures have been able only to slow the advance. Experts say the locusts originated near the Red Sea, cross-



sed Sudan and Chad, through the Sahel countries, then began a vast northward movement, pushed along by winds and hunger.

Officials at the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) say that \$30 million has been donated so far by various countries, including the United States, Western Europe and the Soviet Union. But FAO says at least \$150 million is needed. In Morocco, where several southern provinces and the Sahara territory are under siege by the insects, officials engaged

in the fight say they are facing two problems — the continued arrival of new swarms from neighbouring countries and the batching of eggs laid during the last three months of 1987. About 40 aircraft and 300 vehicles are being used in Morocco's anti-locust fight, several donated by the United States, France, West Germany and Italy. Morocco also has received supplies of pesticides from Portugal and Saudi Arabia. Similar efforts are under way in Tunisia, where 21 aircraft have been mobilised and 50,000 hectares already have been treated. Swarms of locusts have

been sighted as close as 150 kilometres south of Tunis.

Health hazard
In a related problem, there have been at least 60 reported cases in the past week of people falling ill in affected areas of Tunisia, but officials said it was not known whether they were stricken by the spraying or from eating sprayed locusts.

The Tunisian Agriculture Ministry has been attempting, through the media, to warn people against eating locusts, considered by some people to be a delicacy.

"Cases of illness are due to the non-respect of warnings about eating locusts," said one ministry official.

Enormous task
According to experts here, 300,000 hectares have been sprayed in Algeria, about 70 per cent of it by air, the only practical means in a country 4½ times the size of France. About 40 aircraft have been donated for the struggle. The task is enormous. It also is vital because it is a matter of protecting the Algeria's "breadbasket" to the north. But as each swarm is destroyed, other are spotted a little farther on.

Open university opens the shutters

Sana Atiyeh reports on the prospects of Al Quds Open University.

AMMAN — Al Quds Open University (OOU), the first of its kind in the Arab World, has become known among the international network of distance education institutions, according to Shannon Timmers, director of International Development Office of the Open Learning Agency (OLA) of British Columbia in Canada.

Timmers, who recently visited OOU with two other Canadian specialists in distance education, told the Jordan Times that as far as he observed, OOU is doing just as well as any other similar institution in the preparatory stage, and expects it to begin operation on schedule in Oct. 88.

"The development of OOU with its successes and problems are experienced by every other distance education institution: The social acceptance, credibility, legitimacy, the requirements of the systems, and the technology, planning, developing and supporting of student activities," Timmers noted.

Timmers believes that though OOU might be facing some difficulties in starting their courses, "in three years from now, people will come knocking on the doors of OOU for expertise and material," he predicted.



OOU was initially aimed at Palestinians living under Israeli occupation and whose education is continuously disrupted by the authorities, but later expanded to provide higher education for people who could not enroll as full time students in the whole Arab World.

The project was initially financed by the Palestine National Fund (PNF), but according to the president of OOU, Dr. Walid Kamhawi, the university has not received any finances from the PNF in the past six months. The project is currently receiving financial aid from the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official recently admitted that OOU is not on top of their list of priorities, adding that they believe there are other important projects and allocations of funds to be made, especially with the current Palestinian uprising. The official added, however, that this project will be seriously reconsidered on their agenda of fund allocations.

Other Palestinians believe that



Al Quds Open University headquarters in Amman.

OOU should be regarded as an essential element in serving students in the occupied territories. They say that education is a major part of their struggle against the Zionist occupation, and that OOU will be able to cater for those who cannot continue their higher education in conventional institutions, either because they must work to survive or because their political activities take much of their time.

More funds needed

Keith Harry, documentation officer of the International Centre for Distance Learning at the Open University in the United Kingdom, said: "OOU could use more funding because it is quite expensive for any distance education institution to start off. Only when it starts working and during a certain stage of teaching it becomes a low-cost system. Because it is saved for not having to provide the facilities needed in conventional on-campus universities."

Harry told the Jordan Times that the staff of OOU has a "tremendous amount of enthusiasm, and whether they will operate on schedule or not depends on their commitment." Harry, who is at OOU on a fact-finding mission and to offer his expertise, told the Jordan Times that the university needs to write the courses fast if it is to start on time. He added that it must have its registration system in place and have the student support ready, such as tutorial services, library and centre facilities.

The expert, who was on his way back to England after his visit from the Open University in Pakistan, noted that all open universities around the world have faced problems in the beginning because of their unconventional system, "there is usually strong

opposition against distance education. In the U.K. and Holland for example, it was ridiculed by conventional institutions and educators, because they thought the quality of education would not be of the same standard as conventional education and thought it wouldn't work," Harry recalled.

He added that now distance education is regarded as a respectable, necessary and successful means of teaching and it can be an answer to many different problems.

Fifteen years ago, there were one million people enrolled in distance education. Today, there are 12.5 million who are receiving their education and higher education degrees through this method.

The Arab World is the only region in the world that does not have a functioning open university. Besides countries in Europe and America and even Africa, there are major distance education institutions in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand, China, Taiwan and Japan. Israel was one of the first countries in Asia that opened distance education to serve its citizens.

OOU aims and structure

OOU's main objective is not only to provide the opportunity for the largest number of Palestinian and young Arab men and women to obtain higher education and training, but also to democratise higher education in the Arab society, according to Kamhawi. "Through distance education, OOU will make higher learning and training accessible to the less fortunate among the socially and economically disadvantaged groups," he said.

After a feasibility study conducted for the project by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

(UNESCO) in 1980, it was found that only 35 per cent of those expected to apply between 1985 and 1990 to conventional universities and colleges will find places; and only 30 per cent between 1990 and 1995.

Kamhawi speculated that if financial resources and logistics were available, the university would be able to reach and teach approximately 60,000 students by 1991.

Kamhawi said that the open university will enable people to obtain their education while earning a living wherever they are, regardless of age, academic achievement or economic means. He explained that there will be regional centres to coordinate the work between the headquarters in Amman and the sub-regional and local centres. In addition, local study units will be established in cities, towns, villages, and refugee camps, if the optimum number of students is between 50 to 100, in order to maximise interaction between students and tutors, and among students themselves.

OOU will offer required courses in learning how to learn, Arabic and English languages, computer science, introduction to statistics, methods of scientific research, Palestine and the Palestinian problem, living with technology, human civilisation and its achievements, the Arab Islamic civilisation, and contemporary challenges in the Arab World.

The open university will also offer courses leading to specific degrees in technology and applied sciences, including electronic and mechanical engineering and informatics. Other degree programmes include home and family development, land and rural development, management and entrepreneurship, education and in-service teachers training.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SHOOTING ACES: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Saturday received a Jordan Shooting Federation team which returned home from Egypt after taking part in the first Arab shooting championship held last week. The team won three gold medals, five silver medals and 2 bronze medals.

WOMEN IN UPRISING: Former Information Minister Laila Sharaf addressed a press conference Sunday by a special women's committee for supporting the Palestinian uprising. Sharaf stressed women's role in supporting the uprising by holding bazaars, exhibitions and football matches to raise funds.

BLOOD DONATION: Friends of the Blood Bank at the University of Jordan Sunday launched a blood donation campaign, aimed at disseminating information on advantages of blood donation, and to encourage students to donate blood to the blood bank.

PILGRIM ISSUES: Ministry of Awqaf Secretary General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Sunday reviewed with the Pilgrimage Affairs Committee issues pertaining to transporting and accommodating Jordanian pilgrims during the 1988 pilgrimage to Mecca and stressed the ministry's interests to upgrade the standards of services rendered to pilgrims.

BULGARIAN TOURISM: Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni met in his office Sunday with a Bulgarian television crew now on a visit to Jordan to prepare a documentary on tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan to be shown by Bulgarian Television on Jordan's Independence Day, May 25. The TV crew later met with Minister of Information Hanf Khasawneh who spoke on Jordan's information policy and the situation in the Middle East.

IZMIR SEMINAR: Minister of Planning Tahar Kanaan left for Turkey Sunday to take part in a two-day seminar on planning and executing economic adaptation programmes in the Arab World organised by the World Bank. Ministers from Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Pakistan in addition to Jordan and a number of officials from the International Monetary Fund will take part in the meeting which opens today.

COUNCILS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber has decided to form municipal committees in Balqa, Zarqa, Karak and Mafraq governorates and in Madaba district. The new municipal committees are in Karameh, Rawda and Kafrein in Balqa Governorate, Um Al Jimal in Mafraq Governorate, Al Qasr, Rakin in Karak Governorate, Um Al Sueil in Zarqa Governorate and Jarinet Al Shawakh in Madaba district.

PRINCE RA'D: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Sunday presided over a meeting held at Nazik Al Hariri Special Education Centre, to discuss a special law on the disabled, prepared by the Labour and Social Development Ministry.

Israeli measures fail to dent revolt

(Continued from page 1)

under curfew, in an apparent attempt to punish the population for protests.

At Halhoul, near Hebron, Palestinians beat an Israeli bus driver and torched his vehicle, after Jewish settlers rampaged through the village firing automatic weapons and smashing windows, reports said.

Palestinian residents reported clashes after Sunday church services in Bethlehem, Ramallah, Beit Sahour and the Qalandia refugee camp, north of Jerusalem.

Troops in Ramallah smashed the windows of a freelance photographer's car with rubber bullets and fired tear gas into the vehicle, witnesses quoted by Reuters said.

The city of 30,000 residents was declared a closed military area. The Palestine Press Service (PPS) also reported severe clashes in

the village of Burka, near Hebron.

An army spokeswoman said she had strict orders not to disclose figures for the numbers of arrests, "administrative detentions" without trial or new prison camps opened.

Palestinian sources and international relief workers estimate that between 5,000 and 8,000 Palestinians are now under arrest.

Israel Radio said "many dozens" of Arabs were arrested in recent weeks on suspicion of taking part in protests. Police also interrogated a number of left-wing Jewish activists implicated in anti-Israel demonstrations, the radio said.

Israeli officials said the arrests were an attempt to forestall expected unrest on Land Day, next Wednesday, when Arabs mark the anniversary of the 1976 killing of six demonstrators protesting against land confiscation.

PLO welcomes Shultz' meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Darbalkhah.

Iraq blasted yesterday U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for his recent charge that Iraq appears to have used chemical weapons in the Gulf war.

Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoun in a statement said the secretary general's statement was biased and "ignored a most important fact, namely Iran's occupation of

an Iraqi city despite Security Council mandatory Resolution 598 which called for a comprehensive peaceful settlement."

Hamdoun was referring to the northeastern Iraqi town of Halabja which Iran seized in a cross-border thrust last week.

Iran and Kurdish rebels charge Baghdad killed 5,000 people when it dropped chemical bombs on Halabja and other towns in Iraqi Kurdistan after Iranian troops captured them.

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17:00 Programme on History of Mathematics	
17:15 Oliver Twist	
18:00 Programme on Education	
18:30 Local series	
19:05 Local programme	
19:50 Programme review	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 News in Arabic	
21:30 Local programmes	
22:30 Programme on film director Salah Abu Saif	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00 Le Carnaval De Bal	
19:00 News in French	
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine (French)	
19:30 News in Hebrew	
20:00 News in Arabic	
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21:10 Rags in Riches	
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09:00 News Summary	
10:05 Just a Minute	
11:00 My Music	
11:30 Reading	
12:00 News Summary	
12:05 Pop Session	
13:00 News Summary	
13:05 Pop Session Continued	
14:00 News Bulletin	
14:30 Special Feature	
15:00 News Summary	
16:00 News Summary	
16:05 Instrumental	
16:30 Old Favourites	
17:00 Young Sound	
17:30 Pop Session	
18:00 News Summary	
18:05 Sports Roundup	
18:30 Music	
19:00 News Desk	
19:30 Date with a Star	
20:00 Evening Show	
21:00 News Summary	
21:05 Evening Show Contd.	
22:00 News Summary	
22:05 Evening Show Continued	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	Via at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (runs through March 30).
EXHIBITIONS	
★ Egyptian Book Exhibition at the Professional Association Union.	
★ An art exhibition by Olivia Palfard at Alia Art Gallery (until March 28).	
★ Book exhibition at the Comprehensive Commercial Centre (Tower Building), Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle (permanent).	
★ General book exhibition at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani.	
★ Art exhibition by Samia Zarour at the Jordan National Museum of Fine Arts (until end of March)	
★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Boule and Mounira Al-Tunisiyah at the Housing Bank Gallery (runs through April 19).	
★ First School Arts Exhibition at Ahmad Touqan School. Open during school hours until June 1988.	
★ Exhibition for the Spanish artist Maria Dolores Travesedo at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until March 30).	
★ British Illustration from Caxton to Choe (runs through April 31) at British Council.	
★ An exhibition about French architecture at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Jordan (until March 29).	
JAZZ PERFORMANCES	
★ The Kevin Eubanks Trio are visiting Jordan March 23 through March 29. The trio, a guitarist, bassist and drummer, perform an energised brand of contemporary jazz. For more details on the trio's performances, please call the American Centre.	
THEATRE	
★ Les Bateaux D'empire de Boris	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	13:30 Bahrain (GF) 14:35 Kuwait (KU) 20:15 Baghdad (IA) 06:30 Paris (AF)
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)	
09:30 Larnaca (RJ)	
09:30 Cairo (RJ)	
09:30 Damascus (RJ)	
09:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)	
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)	
09:40 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)	
09:50 Doha (RJ)	
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)	
10:45 Cairo (RJ)	
17:35 Beirut, Ankara (TK)	
17:55 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)	
18:45 Bangkok (RJ)	
24:00 Baghdad (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
09:20 Sana'a (LH)	
09:30 Baghdad (IA)	
09:35 Cairo (MS)	
12:00 Beirut, Ankara (TK)	
12:00 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)	
13:40 Kuwait (KU)	
19:15 Beirut (ME)	
19:15 Vienna (IA)	
23:30 Baghdad (AF)	
DEPARTURES	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)	
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
11:30 Paris (AF)	
11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)	
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)	
12:30 Cairo (RJ)	
19:00 Jeddah (RJ)	
19:35 Kuwait (RJ)	
19:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
20:00 Baghdad (RJ)	
20:15 Cairo (RJ)	
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
05:30 Cairo, London (BA)	
06:15 Beirut (MEA)	
10:10 Frankfurt (LH)	
10:20 Cairo (MS)	
10:20 Vienna (IA)	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
EMERGENCIES	
Amman governorate 891228	
Amman Civil Defence 198, 199	
Civil Defence Irbid 371293, 273131	
Civil Defence Qusweh 770733	
Civil Defence Oer Alla 193, 775111	
Amman downtown fire brigade 198	
First aid 630341	
Blood Bank 778303	
Civil Defence rescue 661111	
Fire headquarters 622943	
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777	
Police headquarters 639141	
Traffic police 896390/1	
Electric Power Co. 636814, 634881	
Municipal water complaints 771258	
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08)533030/61	
HOSPITALS	
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2	
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816	
Akliah Maternity, J. Amn 642412	
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362	
Malhas, J. Amman 636140	
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4	
Shmeisani Hospital 649131	
University Hospital 845845	
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/7	
The Islamic, Abidh 666127/37	
Al-Ahli, Abidh 664164/6	
Irbid, Al-Muasher 771013	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771112/2	
Army, Marja 891611/5	
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50	
Amal Hospital 674155	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Sami Tannous 894964	
Dr. Jamil Maraga 794994	
Dr. Mounir Wardah 784352	
Dr. Atel Dubbas 668236	
First pharmacy 661912	
Firstaid pharmacy 775336	
Al Asema pharmacy 637055	
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672	
Al Salam pharmacy 636730	
Yacoub pharmacy 649465	
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660	
TAXIS:	
Sa'idi taxi 8986434	
Badawi taxi 792511	
Agarhawi taxi 892594	
Kayali taxi 786030	
Iyad taxi 740317	
Misri taxi 895364	
IRBID:	
Dr. Amio Abu Eidh 244468	
Shmeisani pharmacy 279825	
ZARQA:	
Dr. Tareq Hijawi 985445	
Khalil pharmacy 985417	
GENERAL	
Jordan Television 77311/19	
Radio Jordan 77411/19	
Ministry of Tourism 642311	
Hotel complaints 664212	
Price complaints 661176	
Telephone information 12	
Jordan and Middle East calls 10	
Overseas calls 17	
Repair service 11	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in lbs per kg	
Apple (French) 420 / 360	
Apple (green) 470 / 400	
Banana 350 / 300	
Banana (Mokhammad) 300 / 240	
Beans (broad) 330 / 300	
Cabbage 200 / 150	
Carrot 250 / 180	
Cauliflower (white) 220 / 180	
Courgettes 280 / 220	
Eggplant (large) 280 / 220	
Eggplant (small) 300 / 250	
Garlic 140 / 100	
Garlic (green) 160 / 100	
Lemon 300 / 150	
Marrow 300 / 250	
Onion (green) 160 / 120	
Onion (dry) 220 / 170	
Oranges (local) 220 / 160	
Oranges (Shamouni) 320 / 260	
Pear 400 / 350	
Pepper (hot) 640 / 580	
Pepper (sweet) 400 / 350	
Potato 120 / 80	
Raddish 80 / 50	
Spinach 140 / 100	
Tomatoes 230 / 160	
Turnip 170 / 130	

Ceremony to inaugurate broiler chicken project

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony will be held in Azraq, north east of here, Tuesday for the official inauguration of a project for the production of broiler chicken under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The project, initiated in 1986 by the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Wealth (ACDAW), is currently producing 415,000 egg-laying hens, six million chickens for meat and seven million table eggs, according to Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Saleh Al Lawzi.

He said that when the project goes into full production a total of 13 million eggs will be hatched annually.

Lawzi said the project consists of eight different units one of which is used as a laboratory for conducting tests, and one contains services and administration buildings and workers residential quarters.

He said Jordan was chosen for the project in view of its central

location within the Arab World and due to the facilities it offers for transporting the products by land and air to various countries in the Gulf and the Mediterranean regions.

The ACDAW plans to undertake commercial, industrial and agricultural activities related to the production of poultry meat and eggs, and carry out other activities related to the project.

The ACDAW has established three important poultry projects, one in Saudi Arabia, which has a capacity of six million chicken a year, the other in Qatar with a capacity of 3.2 million chickens and 26 million eggs annually, and the third in Sudan which has 2.6 million chicken and 15 million egg capacity every year.

Lawzi said despite the production of many Arab countries still depend on foreign imports of chicken and eggs, and for this reason the ACDAW has decided to increase production by launching this project in Jordan.

Experts call for more care in teaching Arabic

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar organised by the Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA) on the teaching of foreign languages and their effect on Arab children, heard calls for more attention and care to be given for the teaching of Arabic.

One of the participants, Dr. Nasrat Abdul Rahman, said that there was no need for Arab children to start learning a foreign language at the elementary level, for fear it would reduce the student's ability to learn the mother language on solid basis.

Abdul Rahman said that a foreign language could be taught once the students have had a very good command of their own language.

He urged educators and concerned authorities to reexamine the philosophy of teaching another language at this stage.

Another participant was Dr. Mohammad Awwad, who said that Yarmouk University students were suffering from poor Arabic, and that more stress should be laid on Arabic teaching at schools before the students reach the university level.

Seminar debates specifications in various Arab countries

AMMAN (Petra and J.T.) — A five-day seminar on developing the activities of standardisation and metrology departments in the Arab World opened in Amman Sunday.

The participants will discuss working papers on standards and specifications in various Arab countries and means of removing obstacles impeding them.

Addressing the opening session was Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaz, who said that his ministry was undertaking measures for coordinating national efforts in support of standardisation and metrology for the sake of promoting national industry.

"Unifying standards and specifications should be the task of all commercial, industrial and scientific institutions in the country, which ought to take part in the pan-Arab efforts for laying down unified specifications and standards for the Arab World," Tabbaz said.

The seminar which was organised by the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) is being attended by specialists from Arab and foreign countries.

AOSM Secretary General Mahdi Hannoush, who addressed the meeting, underlined the importance of unified standards for the Arab World. He said that the vast growth and fast developing industry and technology in developed nations make it incumbent on the Arabs to undertake measures to unify their specifications and measures for their industries.



Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaz Sunday opens seminar on activities of Arab World Standardisation and Metrology departments (Petra photo)



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday meets with 27 American professors currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Queen meets group of U.S. professors

AMMAN (Petra and J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor met at Basman Palace Sunday with a group of 27 professors from the Joseph Malone Faculty who are taking part in a programme on Arab and Islamic studies in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and North Yemen.

The Queen and the visitors reviewed bilateral cooperation in cultural, historical and scientific fields between Jordanian and American universities, with both sides stressing the importance of visits by academicians from both

countries as a means to enhance cooperation.

The professors, who represent universities in Alabama and Ohio, are here in the course of a programme organised by the Council on U.S.-Arab Relations which was established in 1984.

The programme provides American educators with an opportunity to visit the Arab World, and gain first-hand insight into the region and its people and later to relay and integrate this experience in their academic and professional programmes.

During their stay in the Arab countries participants receive instruction in Arab culture and history, contemporary Arab society, Arabic language and Islam.

They attend lectures and briefings by government officials and specialists, meet with academic counterparts at host universities, and visit the country's historical and cultural sites.

The visit to Jordan was planned in coordination with the Arab Cultural Association, the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University.

NAF distributes JD 67,000 for 300 families

AJLOUN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) office in Ajloun last year distributed JD 67,000 to 300 needy families in Ajloun district, in urgent and regular financial aid, according to the office Director Ibrahim Rababa.

He said this year the office has allocated JD 25,000 to be paid to needy families in regular monthly financial aid.

Rababa said that the office set up a national committee from Ajloun district last January to

help the office define the needy families and distribute allocations to them.

This year Rababa said the NAF office in Ajloun plans to carry out three projects for rehabilitating handicapped persons at the total cost of JD 25,140.

University to get British Council assistance

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University and the British Council in Amman have signed a document providing for technical assistance to the university from the British Council, financed by the European Community.

Under the agreement a programme of visits by teachers from Yarmouk University and British

and Belgian universities will be launched and joint research will be carried out, according to Dr. Mohammad Abu Saleh, dean of Yarmouk University's Department of Sciences.

The programme also allows technicians from the European Community to visit Yarmouk University and help with the

establishment of faculty of science workshops.

The agreement was signed by University President Mohammad Hamdan and British Council Representative in Amman David Latta.

U.S. jazz trio renders brilliant performance

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The great American guitarist, Kevin Eubanks and his trio started off a series of concerts in Jordan by playing at the Amra Hotel, in Amman Saturday, March 26, before a crowded audience. Another similar performance was due Sunday March 27 at the Amra Hotel and a third one is scheduled for Monday, March 28, at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

Eubanks belongs to the generation of young guitarists who can display an amazing level of technical virtuosity. He is currently one of the guitar "stars" in the United States, and his name has been connected to giants like George Benson and other jazz musicians. His album "Sund-

ance" has been listed by the French magazine Compact as a reference work.

The first performance at the Amra Hotel, though surprisingly short, confirmed Kevin Eubanks as a guitar master. However, and as the sun should not prevent us from seeing other stars in the sky, tribute must also be paid to the drummer and the bass guitarist playing with Eubanks who were absolutely brilliant. The band played beautiful, clean, modern jazz, chaining one number to the other without introducing any of them to the audience.

Kevin Eubanks played at a relatively low volume, using a sophisticated set of what is technically referred to as "expression pedals," often enhancing the volume — one which gives the guitar the sound of string instruments.

Germany to honour Palestinian women martyrs

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony for honouring women taking part in the current uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be held here Monday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The Queen will honour at least 23 Palestinian women martyrs who fell in confrontation with the Israeli occupation troops and three Palestinian women serving sentences for resistance activities inside the occupied territories.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development is organising the event at the Palace of Culture at Al Hussein Youth City in cooperation with the Amman Club for Business and Professional Women.

Fund grants JD 6m loans to 525 teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — A special fund set up in 1980 to help finance housing projects for Ministry of Education officials and teachers in government schools, has so far granted 525 employees loans totalling JD 6 million, the fund's Director Hamdan Al Daba'i said Sunday.

He said the fund started lending operations in 1983 has at least 7,500 subscribers from the East Bank and 1,000 from the West Bank, all of whom pay monthly subscriptions for at least one year before being entitled to obtain loans.

Each subscriber pays JD 10 plus five per cent of his or her total salary every month for at least one year, before applying for loan with which to finance the construction of a home or buy a ready made home or flat, Daba'i said.

For subscribers to obtain such a loan, they should have been paying regular subscriptions, must not have their own homes, and must submit documents proving that the purchase of, or the

construction of, a projected home is to be carried out with the help of the fund's loan, Daba'i explained.

He said that once loans are granted to a subscriber, they can pay back in monthly instalments without interest, for a period not exceeding 20 years.

Daba'i said that the fund was set up upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein who, in a speech on Teachers Day in 1975, announced that teachers would be helped to own their homes through government assistance.

The King said that plots of land were to be assigned for teachers' housing estates in various areas where teachers can establish their own homes on both banks of the River Jordan.

According to Daba'i the fund draws its sources from subscriptions, loans with government guarantees, contributions and the fund's investments.

He said subscription to the fund is not compulsory and once an employee's job is terminated through resignation or dismissal subscription automatically comes to an end.

The fund's management has laid down rules by which a loan can be extended to a beneficiary, and priority is given to subscribers with the longest service with the ministry, depending on the fund's resources and available amounts of money collected from subscribers, Daba'i noted.

He said in case a man and his wife happen to be both ministry employees their application will be treated as one and given a loan to build their home.

Daba'i appealed to employees to take time before applying for loans since available funds are limited now, but he said the door is still open for all who wish to subscribe to the fund.

Khasawneh receives U.N. delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — A 10-member United Nations fact-finding mission, now on a visit to Jordan, met Sunday with Minister of Information Hani Al Khasawneh and discussed the Palestine issue and other aspects of the Middle East problem.

Khasawneh briefed the delegation on Jordan's firm policies with regard to the Middle East question and the establishment of peace.

He also answered questions about Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the current Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the latest U.S. peace proposals.

The delegation members who arrived here Thursday met Saturday with the ministers of occupied territories affairs and labour and social development to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Later Sunday the delegation members were received by Chairman of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs Akram Zuaiter, who reviewed with them the Israeli violations of human rights and the oppressive measures against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

Zuaiter called on the delegation to convey their findings to the whole world.



Minister of Information Hani Al Khasawneh receives the United Nations fact-finding mission in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

The committee's Secretary General Fayed Jaber briefed the delegation on the Israeli terrorism and the Israeli encroachments of the holy places.

Jaber also submitted to them a list of 394 cities and villages in Palestine which the Israelis have demolished, and also presented a document showing the Israeli measures to Judaize Jerusalem and obliterate its Arab and Muslim identity.

Also receiving the delegation were Lower House Deputy for

Jerusalem constituency Fuad Farraj and Chairman of the Islamic Organisations Council Kamel Al Sharif, who briefed them on the Israeli oppressive measures against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, and the tight restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on journalists with a view to obliterating the facts about the situation in the occupied territories. Jerusalem Committee member Archbishop Salim Al Sayegh also briefed them on the sufferings of people under Israeli occupation.

Saab 340's low exhaust pollution confirmed

A RECENT study by the Swedish Board of Civil Aviation (LFV) environmental specialist, Jan Westerberg, has confirmed the "good neighbour" low exhaust pollution levels of the Saab 340. These have been proved comparable to a catalyst-equipped automobile, based on emitted grams of hydrocarbons (HC) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOX) combined.

Both HC and NOX emissions are causes for concern worldwide by governments and environmental protection agencies alike. The

former pollutant causes not only the foul smell at and around airports, but associated contributory problems of forming smog and excess ozone. The latter has significant acidification effects and the combination of the two leads to compound problems — amongst them the death of forests.

Whilst aviation generally is but a marginal contributor to overall pollution — especially forest death and acidification — LFV assessed the Saab 340 against two

other airliners in daily use on Sweden's regional routes, the F-28 and the DC-9.

Not only does Mr. Westerberg favourably compare the Saab 340 in terms of exhaust cleanliness to that of a catalyst-equipped automobile, but also cites noise as an associated hazard. Here again the Saab 340s also score — to the everlasting relief of residents close to airports served by 340s in service with 27 airline and corporate users, day-in, night-out, on four continents.

Wit, dramatic scenes dominate French play

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The French Cultural Centre of Amman (CCF) presents a play, by French writer Boris Vian, "Les Bâtisseurs d'Empire," at the CCF theatre, at Jaba' Weibdeh, Amman, on March 28, 29 and 30, at 8:00 p.m.

The play tells the story of a family, father, mother, daughter and a maid, constantly running away from a mysterious and undefined entity called "Schmurrz." They keep moving up from one floor to another, always to a smaller apartment. At each stage one of them disappears, until the father is alone with the Schmurrz, with only one solution left for him.

Alternating humour and anxiety, witty and highly dramatic scenes, Vian very efficiently produces a dramatic atmosphere. The contrast between the funny and the serious parts makes the latter even more tragic. The Schmurrz, the family is running away from, symbolises all the negative and dark, black side of the self-consciousness of the father and the mother, it keeps reminding them of their failures, in spite of all the beatings they give him.

Though they desperately try to forget the past and make believe that everything is going fine, their daughter, Zenobie, rejects all their attempts and keeps a relatively clear view of the situa-

tion. The already fascinating subject is admirably supported by the actors. Francois Leroux is the father, Muriel Musallam the mother, Sylvie Leroux the daughter, Gaynor Peridakis the maid, Jean-Francois Dobelle a neighbour and last but not least, Denis Gaillard is the Schmurrz.

Gaillard is also the director and producer of the play, while Olivier Mettillod and Jean-Michel Coste worked on the set decoration and on the sound and lights system.

Leroux, Peridakis and Gaillard have already a sound stage experience. The others are newcomers to the theatre world. All of them deliver a more than convincing performance.

Only a few minutes after the beginning of the play the audience is kept on high tension and contrary to what is apparently expected, the audience is kept in a "thriller" atmosphere. But unlike most thrillers who are easily forgotten once out of the theatre, "Les Bâtisseurs d'Empire" will keep you thinking of it for some time after.

This play is the fifth in a series which was initiated three years ago by Philippe Le Gal at the CCF, definitely one of the most active and dynamic cultural centres in Jordan, and which seems to always draw a wide audience. The tradition is expected to be continued in the years to come.

Tickets are JD 1 and admission is free for the CCF students.



The father before his disappearance (Photo by Aline Talatinian)



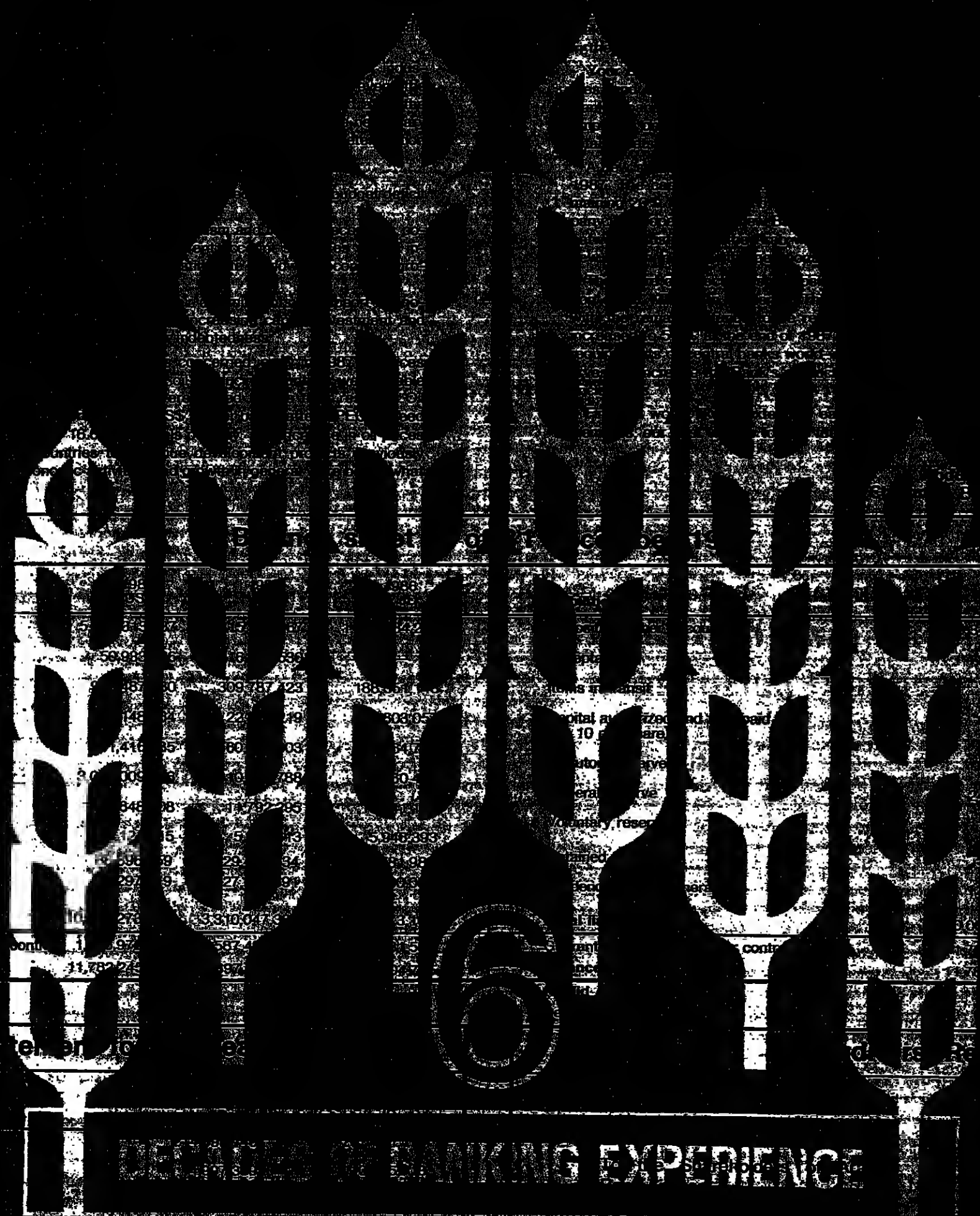
The neighbour's visit (Photo by Aline Talatinian)



QUIZ NIGHT: British Airways Manager Eric Burdon presents a giant cheque (courtesy of Grindlays Bank) for JD 2,034 to Her Majesty Queen Noor for the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. Everybody "had a wonderful time" that was the overwhelming response from all those who attended the British Airways' first Quiz Night last Thursday at the Marriott Hotel. Participants quickly entered into the spirit of the event which was held to raise money for the Al Hussein Society. Between answering challenging questions put to them by English comedian Peter Jones, there was a continuous stream of door prizes and 5 major raffles. With a short break for supper, the evening came to climax with Mr. Abdullah Kafana becoming "Genius Of The Year" for the top prize of a fantastic holiday to the Land of Disney for

two, travelling First Class with British Airways and staying at the Marriott World Centre with an added stopover in London, the value of which exceeded JD 3,800.00. The runner-up was Hussein Dabbas who received 2 Club World tickets to London with a stay at the London Marriott, and third was Marwan Salfit. "It was even better than we had planned," said Burdon. "and my sincere gratitude must go to all the people who contributed so generously including Marriott Hotels, Spinneys, Jordan Jewellery Co., Jordan Marketing and Naim Al Far & Co." Prizes for the top tables of the night were; Easter weekend in London, a weekend trip to Cairo (both for 10 people travelling BA and staying at Marriott Hotels) and dinner for 10 at the Marriott Al Walima Restaurant. No-one left empty handed as "Goodie Bags" were handed out to all as they left.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK



DECADERS OF BANKING EXPERIENCE

erating branches in the West Bank of Jordan and Gaza strip. Early in 1988, 2 new branches started operations: one in Amman and one in Cairo. Another branch will soon start operations in Italy.

The geographical distribution of the branches is depicted in the following schedule:

Area	Number of Branches 1987	Number of Branches 1988
Jordan	26	23
Arab Countries	29	25
Europe	11	5
U.S.A.	3	1
Far East	4	—

Affiliates and sister companies

Arab Bank Limited affiliates and sister companies are spread worldwide. This enables your Bank to perform multidimensional

activities, thus providing customers with a complete range of financial services.

Staff

In a world of rapid change, the skill and dedication of our staff are the bedrock of our achievements. In recent years, emphasis was given to high-level management training and to the specialization of banking facilities, such as credit, international banking operations and marketing. Training is continuously provided by our organization as well as by external academic and banking institutions. Our continued efforts, in updating the qualifications of all personnel, make for a constant improvement in customer services.

Automation

Your Bank is continuously utilizing modern concepts in office au-

tomation to provide excellent and faster services to its clients. This application of advanced automated systems and new techniques has also helped to reduce the running costs of the branches and General Management.

Your Bank now operates 15 computer centres throughout various countries. Additional Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) have been installed to upgrade facilities. Concurrently, progress is being made in providing to customers by way of home office banking systems.

Secure and economical communication between branches and General Management is provided by a leased telegraphic network system. The Bank is also a member of SWIFT, a network enabling communication between international banks concerning world finance. The connection to CHIPS and FED

WIRE, in New York, allows for automated clearing of cheques and transferring of funds.

Appropriation of Net Profit

The Board of Directors recommends the following appropriations:

— JD 16.2 million to the reserves
— JD 7.7 million to the Shareholders at JD 3.5 per share (35% of the par value of JD 10 payable as from 30 April 1988).

— JD 14,200 as remuneration to the Members of the Board of Directors.

In conclusion, the Board of Directors wishes to express its gratitude to all clients who entrusted their business to our Bank. A special note of thanks goes to the management and staff for their continued dedicated service to our customers and shareholders.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

ARAB BANK LIMITED

General Management
P.O. Box 1000
Amman, Jordan

Branches:
P.O. Box 1000
Amman, Jordan

Offshore Banking Unit
P.O. Box 1000
Amman, Jordan

Dealing Room
P.O. Box 1000
Amman, Jordan

Commercial Branches
P.O. Box 1000
Amman, Jordan

Muscat
P.O. Box 1000
Muscat, Oman

Beijing Representative Office
P.O. Box 1000
Beijing, China

Cyprus
P.O. Box 1000
Nicosia, Cyprus

Greece
P.O. Box 1000
Athens, Greece

Japan
P.O. Box 1000
Tokyo, Japan

Korea
P.O. Box 1000
Seoul, Korea

Lebanon
P.O. Box 1000
Beirut, Lebanon

Madaba
P.O. Box 1000
Madaba, Jordan

Makassar
P.O. Box 1000
Makassar, Indonesia

Morocco
P.O. Box 1000
Casablanca, Morocco

Nigeria
P.O. Box 1000
Lagos, Nigeria

Qatar
P.O. Box 1000
Doha, Qatar

Saudi Arabia
P.O. Box 1000
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Singapore
P.O. Box 1000
Singapore

Sri Lanka
P.O. Box 1000
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Amman
P.O. Box 1000
Amman, Jordan

Abdullah
P.O. Box 1000
Abdullah, Jordan

Abu Alanda
P.O. Box 1000
Abu Alanda, Jordan

Agaba
P.O. Box 1000
Agaba, Jordan

Deir Alla
P.O. Box 1000
Deir Alla, Jordan

Fifth Circle
P.O. Box 1000
Fifth Circle, Jordan

Gardens Office
P.O. Box 1000
Gardens Office, Jordan

International Exchange Unit
P.O. Box 1000
International Exchange Unit, Jordan

Jabal Amman
P.O. Box 1000
Jabal Amman, Jordan

Jerash
P.O. Box 1000
Jerash, Jordan

Karak
P.O. Box 1000
Karak, Jordan

Luweibdeh
P.O. Box 1000
Luweibdeh, Jordan

Makassar
P.O. Box 1000
Makassar, Indonesia

Morocco
P.O. Box 1000
Casablanca, Morocco

Nigeria
P.O. Box 1000
Lagos, Nigeria

Qatar
P.O. Box 1000
Doha, Qatar

Saudi Arabia
P.O. Box 1000
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Singapore
P.O. Box 1000
Singapore

Sri Lanka
P.O. Box 1000
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Amman
P.O. Box 1000
Amman, Jordan

Abdullah
P.O. Box 1000
Abdullah, Jordan

Abu Alanda
P.O. Box 1000
Abu Alanda, Jordan

Agaba
P.O. Box 1000
Agaba, Jordan

Deir Alla
P.O. Box 1000
Deir Alla, Jordan

Fifth Circle
P.O. Box 1000
Fifth Circle, Jordan

Gardens Office
P.O. Box 1000
Gardens Office, Jordan

International Exchange Unit
P.O. Box 1000
International Exchange Unit, Jordan

Jabal Amman
P.O. Box 1000
Jabal Amman, Jordan

Jerash
P.O. Box 1000
Jerash, Jordan

Karak
P.O. Box 1000
Karak, Jordan

Luweibdeh
P.O. Box 1000
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Analysts expect non-OPEC oil exporters to reduce world glut

NEW YORK (R) — Non-OPEC oil producers, which the group says are pumping more than 500,000 extra barrels a day into world markets, might be persuaded to reduce output by about five per cent if OPEC did likewise, according to U.S. analysts.

They said both the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the non-OPEC producers must cut back production over a sustained period if world oil prices were to stabilise near OPEC's \$18 a barrel target price.

A group of seven non-OPEC producers — Egypt, Oman, China, Mexico, Malaysia, Angola and Colombia — are expected to announce steps soon to help boost oil prices, an Arab oil industry official told Reuters last week.

OPEC, meanwhile, has called a price committee meeting for the first week of April to examine weak world oil prices.

Crude prices saw-sawed by as much as \$1 a barrel last week, with West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark grade, ending firmer at \$17.03 a barrel Friday in anticipation of the OPEC price committee meeting, traders and analysts said.

They thought prices would probably remain volatile until the OPEC panel met.

British Brent crude, another benchmark, ended almost unchanged on the week at \$15.40 for April delivery. That was \$1.45 up on the beginning of March.

OPEC countries are now producing at or under their self-imposed ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day, excluding Iraq, according to OPEC President Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria.

Analysts say OPEC has resisted calling an emergency meeting of oil ministers, fearing that

any production cuts on the group's part would be quickly made up by non-OPEC producers eager to increase sales.

Lukman blames non-OPEC producers

Lukman, at a news conference in Lagos Wednesday, blamed non-OPEC producers for adding to the weakness of oil prices. He said non-OPEC producers now were pumping between 500,000 and one million extra barrels each day into a glutted world market.

William Hermann, chief economist of U.S.-based Chevron Corp., estimated aggregate production for the group of seven non-OPEC producers in 1988 will total about 7.65 million barrels per day.

He said one plan rumoured to be under consideration was a five per cent cut in output by the seven, which would remove about 382,500 barrels per day from the world oil market.

"Fundamentally, a five per cent decrease in output by these seven non-OPEC nations is a step in the right direction," he said.

"If the non-OPEC production cutbacks hold over time, then OPEC members might be more inclined to stick to their quotas."

Mehdi Varzi, an oil analyst with Kleinwort Greaveson in London, said another possible plan to support prices would have both OPEC and non-OPEC producers trim production by about five per cent.

Varzi estimated such a cutback would eliminate about 1.1 million

barrels per day from the world oil market.

But analysts say non-OPEC producers are likely to resist requests for voluntary production cuts because oil is the primary source of revenue for many.

"At today's prices, I can't picture non-OPEC producers wanting to lose market share," said Sarah Emerson, vice-president of U.S.-based Energy Security Analysis Inc. "However, if the price of oil fell to \$12 or \$13, then they might cut back."

She said non-OPEC producers might simply announce a downward revision in future output growth.

Non-OPEC production in the first quarter of 1988 will come to 25.51 million barrels per day, up 170,000 barrels per day from last year's levels, according to Data Resources Inc. Total world oil production averaged about 55.34 million barrels per day in 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

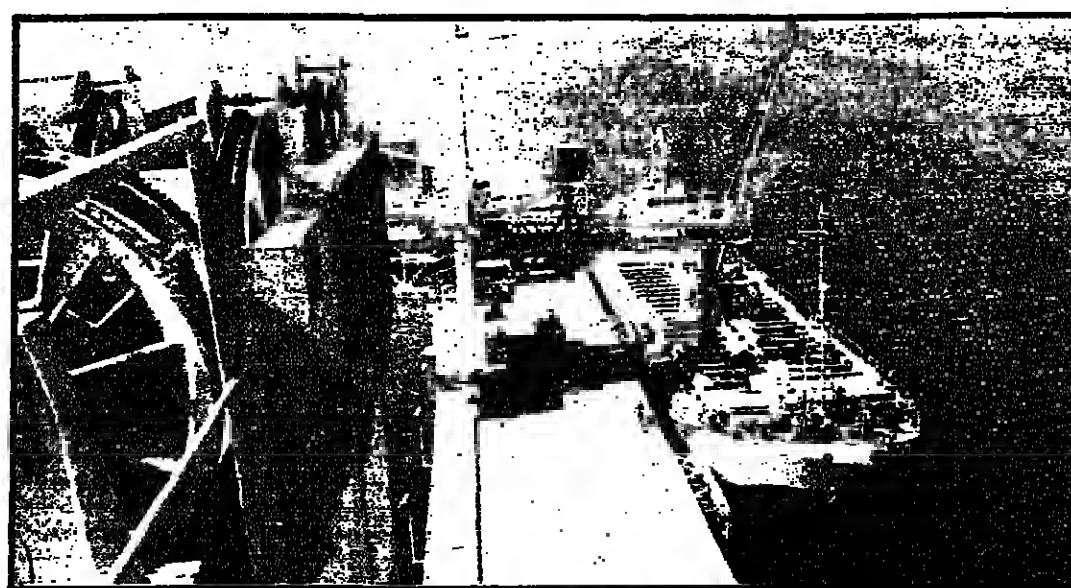
Participation of Norway, Britain and Soviet Union

William Veno, an analyst with DRI, said production cutbacks by OPEC and the seven non-OPEC producers might be insufficient unless Norway, Britain and the Soviet Union participate. The three are not part of the seven-nation group that met earlier this month in London.

But Sanford Margoshes, an oil analyst with Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc., said a cut by even a few non-OPEC producers would be an important step in balancing world supplies and demand.

"It would send OPEC signals that greater support is being given to them. They would not have to fear that if they cut, the void would be filled by non-OPEC production," he said.

India likely to maintain high imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash



A ship at Aqaba port being loaded with Jordanian phosphate (File photo)

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — India is expected to sustain the same value of imports from Jordan in 1988 as in 1987, and any increase will depend on demand within India subject to completion of new phosphate processing plants.

The total volume of Indian purchases of Jordanian products — rock phosphate and muriate of potash — amounted to about \$80 million in 1987, according to available statistics.

New Delhi has already decided to buy the same quantity — 1.05 million tonnes of rock phosphate and 400,000 tonnes of muriate of potash — this year, but the total value may vary in line with fluctuations in international prices.

Most of India's phosphate and fertiliser plants are attuned to Jordanian phosphates and potash, including a new facility which is nearing completion.

Some of the rest are suitable to process Moroccan phosphates

while others are compatible with East European products.

"At this stage, I cannot say whether we will increase the volume of imports from Jordan this year," said A.K. Gandhi, resident manager in Amman of an office of the Indian state-owned Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC). "Everything depends on domestic demand... whether the new plant will depend entirely on Jordanian phosphates..."

MMTC is the sole agency responsible for imports of metals and minerals into India. In turn, it seeks to increase the volume of Indian exports to the respective countries.

In fact, India is the largest importer of Jordanian products, and has been so for many years. Reports in the Indian media indicate that on several occasions India offered to increase its imports from Jordan by almost 50 per cent provided Jordanian imports from India are raised by 20 to 30 per cent.

According to Gandhi, who set up the MMTC office in Amman six months ago, Jordan's imports from India amounted to about \$3.5 million in 1987.

"We are trying to identify specific fields where Jordan could increase its purchase of Indian products, in the public as well as private sectors," he said.

This view appears to be shared by the Jordanian government since the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company has extended its own office facilities to the MMTC resident manager.

However, the MMTC appears to have little to show in the way of increased exports to Jordan. "The difference is too wide, in the trade balance," Gandhi said. "But we are pursuing efforts."

The Indian commerce secretary — equivalent to the under-secretary of trade in Jordan — visited Jordan in 1986 and held extensive talks with senior Jordanian officials on the issue. It was agreed that Jordan would accelerate efforts to raise its reciprocal trade with India. As a result several Indian companies were given contracting projects in Jordan.

According to Gandhi, there is a multitude of Indian products for Jordan to choose from. He cited tea, coffee, spices, cashew nuts, engineering and chemical products, vegetable oil, tobacco products, jute products, fish products, medicine, automobile spare parts, rice etc. as Indian products that enjoy good potential in the Jordanian market.

Ironically, market sources say,

many Indian products — including food stuff — are imported into the local market from Europe, mostly from Britain, where there is a large number of companies specialised in purchasing Indian products and channelling to other countries. Many products appearing in shelves in the local market bear the label "packed India" for European importers.

Gandhi said a high-level Indian trade delegation headed by the commerce secretary is expected to visit Jordan some time in late May or early June for the bi-annual meeting of a joint Jordanian-Indian committee. It is expected that any decision to increase India's purchase from Jordan will be announced at the end of the meeting.

"Of course we are also interested in contracting projects," Gandhi said. Among ideas considered by the Indian government is also a long-entertained proposal to build a trade fair in Jordan.

Gandhi said no specific plans were drawn up but he expected to have a definite decision during his visit to India in April for periodic talks on MMTC activities in Jordan.

During previous talks between Indian and Jordanian trade officials, the idea of setting up a fertiliser processing plant in Jordan with Indian expertise has been raised. It is expected that it will be discussed during the visit to Jordan of the Indian trade delegation.

India's hopes of securing projects worth over \$100 million were set back earlier this year when the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) postponed the expansion of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station. According to informed sources, two Indian companies were the lowest bidders for the civil works and the supply of boiler units for the expansion scheme.

India scaled down its imports of fertiliser-related products from elsewhere in the Middle East mostly from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states — in 1987 but this move did not affect its purchases from Jordan.

India indeed has the flexibility to increase its imports from Jordan but appears to "be waiting for reciprocal move" from Amman before doing so.

A deal that was agreed upon in 1987 under which India was to supply 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Jordan was called off when India found itself faced with a severe drought which could affect Indian wheat products for some years to come.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Sunday March 27, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	178,485 JD	277,037	228
Top three companies:			
National Steel Ind.	24,967 JD	71,383	11
Intermediate Petrochemical	24,568 JD	35,400	42
Arah Bank	290 JD	32,970	9
Parallel market:	2,867 JD	1,471	—
Development bonds:	1,250 JD	13,588	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

New airliners seen limiting Gulf Arab role in world aviation

BAHRAIN (R) — New airliners able to carry more people over longer distances threaten a role played by the Gulf states as an East-West staging post.

The latest Boeing 747-400S, with a range of 13,140 kilometres, will be able to fly nonstop between Europe and the Far East when they enter airline operation next year.

The European plane-making consortium Airbus Industrie is also developing new aircraft, to enter service in 1992, which will be able to do without costly refuelling stops in the Gulf on routes between Europe and East Asia.

Aviation industry officials say many carriers which now operate flights that stop over in the Gulf, an area generously supplied with international airports, will cease or cut down on services to the area.

"The area as a whole will see a reduction in total capacity of services deployed to and from the Gulf," Gulf Air marketing vice president Hamed Al Medfa said.

"The market here is small and ultimately foreign carriers will yield to competitive pressure for more direct flights on the main trunk routes between Europe and the Far East," he noted.

Three major carriers — Swissair, Singapore Airlines and Japan Airlines — have already announced plans to pull out of Bahrain, once a booming transit point in the region.

"Our decision was based on plans to meet commercial demand for more long-haul direct flights between East and West," Wong Tong Seng, Singapore's Middle East general manager, told Reuters.

Some airlines which have placed orders for new long-range aircraft say they will continue to stop in the Gulf, primarily to pick up and deliver foreign workers, mostly Asians.

Economic recession as a result of weak oil prices has, however, reduced the number of Asian workers.

"When we begin operating the new 747-400S in April 1989, they will probably overfly Bahrain," said Qantas Airways Middle East Manager Malcolm Genge.

But he said traffic between Australia and the Middle East was growing and if this continued "we will fly the new aircraft through Bahrain as well."

With 12 international airports in the Gulf and two more due to open in the coming decade, competition for airline business is fierce.

Dubai is the Gulf's main transit

point and its 1987 transit passenger volume of 1.75 million means it vies with Tokyo's Narita airport as the world's major stopover point.

Boeing Marketing Director Myron Anton told reporters here the new long-haul planes create opportunities as well as challenges for Middle East air carriers.

Local carriers could use the new 747-400 to open long-distance routes to North America or the Far East while the smaller extended range 767-300 and 200 airliners could be operated more economically on short to medium routes, he said.

Gulf Air's Al Medfa said he believed the anticipated decline in foreign carriers serving the region would benefit local airlines by giving them more traffic from the region.

Cabinet grants incentives to projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet has decided to consider a number of projects as developmental, allowing them to enjoy exemptions from taxes and privileges provided for by a law for encouraging investments.

Among those projects were agricultural schemes initiated by Jordanian companies on lands in the south of the country leased from the state and a company which will produce ice.

The Cabinet also decided to cancel a previous decision giving exemptions and privileges to the Mohammad Kurdi dairy plant and a company for producing fodder because they failed to carry out the projects within three years from the date they were given the exemptions in accordance with the agreement.

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Africa accelerates bid for radical debt solution

NAIROBI (R) — African nations are stepping up efforts to get reluctant creditors to a round-table conference to consider radical action on a burden of \$200 billion of debt which is crippling their economies.

"Our economies are grinding to a halt and many of our countries are actually regressing," says the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) in a declaration setting out new ideas on the debt crisis.

A ministerial committee from 12 African states, which owe more than 70 per cent of Africa's debt, decided last week to press

for such a conference in November or December.

But Western banks, aid agencies and governments have so far have shown no serious interest in the idea.

The 12 ministers met in Lusaka last week to coordinate strategy after a special summit of the 49-member OAU last December endorsed the OAU blueprint for debt relief.

It contains dozens of far-reaching proposals, including a 10-year suspension on loan repayment, cancellation of present official debt, 50-year repayment

periods on new private and official loans and interest rate cuts on commercial loans.

Any rescheduling of debts should be done over 50 years with no interest charged.

It also urges industrialised nations to pursue policies that would ensure higher prices for Africa's commodity exports and to remove protectionist trade barriers.

"The measures are indeed the minimum that we feel are necessary to enable our countries to recover and resume normal growth," it declares.

The U.N. Economic Commission for Africa says the continent's economy, sapped by drought, rapid population growth, civil strife and a slump in world prices for most of its farm and mineral exports, grew only 1.5 per cent in 1987.

This was well below an original forecast of 2.0-4.0 per cent and only about half the rate of population growth.

Leaders have taken a softer line towards Africa in recent months, writing off certain official debt, stretching repayment periods and mobilising funds to

boost concessionary loans.

But their action still falls short of what the OAU proposes.

Its debt paper points to constantly falling income per capita, mass unemployment and poverty which it says threatens the social and cultural fabric of African societies.

It also hints at near bankruptcy in many economies. "In the majority of our countries the question is not that of a liquidity crisis but of solvency."

Many countries already face debt repayment bills exceeding what they earn from exports.

Without a suitable remedy, it envisages Africa's foreign debt will jump more than 50 per cent by 1995 and triple to \$600 billion by the year 2000.

By then African countries, which now spend on average over 40 per cent of export income repaying their debt, will need to pour nearly three-quarters of such earnings into debt servicing.

"The excruciating debt service burden is depriving our economies of resources needed not only for development but also in many countries for the survival of our peoples," it warns.

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Graf beats Evert to win Florida tennis title

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Top seed Steffi Graf kept her concentration in the 48 degree heat (120 F.) courtside heat Saturday to win her second straight International Players Championships title with a 6-4, 6-4 win over second seed Chris Evert.

Graf, who collected \$112,500 for the victory, has not lost a set to Evert in their last six meetings. The 33-year-old Evert, who won her first six career meetings against Graf, lost to the West German world number one in the final here last year. The powerful 18-year-old also defeated Evert in the Australian Open final in January.

Graf maintained her concentration when it appeared that Evert, ranked third in the world, was about to rally and force a third set.

The top seed became unnerved by a questionable line call in the fifth game of the second set as she was on the verge of taking control of the match. Evert had fought off two break points in the game, which could have given Graf a 4-1 lead.

On the third fence, Evert hit a cross-court backhand winner that Graf thought was out. Evert went on to hold her serve for 2-3 and broke Graf in the next game for 3-3.

The American had two break points in the eighth game with a chance to take a 5-3 lead. Graf, however, fought off both points, one with an impressive overhead winner, to level the set again.

Graf then came up with a crucial service break in the ninth game on her fifth break point of the set when Evert netted a drop shot and the West German served out the match on a service winner.

"It was always going back and forth," Graf said. "In the second set at 3-1 the bad call really disturbed me. I was getting mad at it. I didn't concentrate for two games, then I said I have to get back into it. That helped me play better," she said.

Graf had taken an early 3-1 lead in the first set when Evert double faulted to lose her serve. The second seed fought off a



Steffi Graf

break point in the fifth game with an ace and broke back for 4-4 in the eighth game, only to lose her serve in the ninth and watch Graf serve out the set.

Evert, the winner here in 1986, compared this year's one hour 40 minute battle to Graf's 58-minute 6-1, 6-2 1987 rout.

"I'm closing the gap a little bit. I'm happy with my play this week," Evert said.

"There were a couple of key points in both sets that she played better on. I got my chances, but I just couldn't pull it out of the bag," Evert said.

Egyptian parliamentarians to discuss soccer disaster

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian parliamentary committee will hold a special session next week to discuss a blow to national pride — elimination from the Africa Nations Soccer Cup.

The committee on sports and youth affairs is due to meet next Sunday to discuss ways of avoiding a repeat of Egypt's poor performance.

One fan said in a letter to Al-Ahram newspaper Sunday that a minute's national mourning should be observed, and another suggested the team and football federation should be jailed as "a security threat to soccer."

Passions have not cooled in the week since Egypt drew 0-0 with Nigeria in Rabat and were knocked out of Africa's premier soccer competition.

It was the first time defending champions Egypt had been eliminated in the first round. The football federation will meet Monday amid continuing calls for the sacking of British coach Mike Smith.

Duke, Oklahoma reach NCAA basketball final four

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — The Duke Blue Devils rallied Saturday to upset Temple, the top-ranked college basketball team in the country, 63-53 and earned a berth among the NCAA final four in Kansas City next weekend.

Oklahoma soundly defeated Villanova 78-59 in the Southeast regional final of the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament to take their place in the coveted final four.

A tenacious Oklahoma defense held the Wildcats to just 21 second half points and kept them scoreless for a stretch of over five minutes.

Villanova led 38-31 at the half, but the Sooners reeled off 11 straight points midway thru the second half and continued to shut down the Wildcat scorers.

The Temple Owls led by as much as 10 points in the first half of the East Regional final before Duke closed the gap to 28-25 at the break.

Duke, led by Kevin Strickland's game-high 21 points and Danny Ferry's 20, completely took control of the game early in the second half and never looked back.

The tournament began on March 17 with 64 teams. The last two berths in the final four will be decided Sunday.

NCAA BASKETBALL RESULTS

NEW YORK (R) — Results of regional finals in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) basketball tournament Saturday:

East:			
Duke	63	Temple	53
Southwest:			
Oklahoma	76	Villanova	59

Napoli, Milan abridge gap as Roma defeats Inter

ROME (R) — The race for the Italian Soccer League title narrowed to Diego Maradona's Napoli and AC Milan Sunday when third-placed Roma went down 4-2 to Internazionale.

Both leading teams were held to goalless draws, champions Napoli at Torino and Milan at relegation-threatened Avellino, leaving Napoli four points clear of Milan on 39.

Roma's title hopes had been revived by four victories in succession but their defeat left them six points adrift of Napoli with six matches to go and two down on AC Milan.

Inter, struggling back from the doldrums and in search of a place in Europe next season, were 3-0 up after 31 minutes with a penalty from veteran striker Alessandro Altobelli and goals from Giuseppe Bergomi and Massimo Ciccocioppo.

A fighting Roma had the deficit down to a single goal by the half time before man-of-the-match Ciccocioppo hit home Internazionale's fourth and his second with a masterly shot from way out on the right in the 69th minute.



Diego Maradona

Nicola Di Leo.

At Torino, Austrian Anton Polster almost put the home side ahead early in the first half but headed just wide.

Sampdoria, 1-0 winners at home to Fiorentina, stayed fourth nine points behind Napoli with inter fifth and Torino sixth.

Fiorentina's Swedish striker Glenn Hysen had a goal disallowed in the first half after he clashed with a Sampdoria player in the air.

Algeria wins 3rd place in Africa Cup

CASABLANCA (R) — Algeria took the third place consolation prize in the Africa Nations Cup soccer tournament after beating Morocco 4-3 in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw Saturday.

Algeria took the game into extra time with a goal in the dying minutes from star midfielder Lakhdar Belloumi, who headed home from close range, at the far post after some hesitation by the substitute Moroccan goalkeeper in coming out to challenge.

It gave the North African side a measure of revenge for a 1-0 defeat by Morocco earlier in the competition. But Algeria take third place without having won a single game in the two week tournament.

In the Group A qualifying matches, apart from losing to the host nation, they only managed to draw with both Zaire and Ivory

Coast and moved into a semi-final clash with Nigeria on the basis of a potluck draw.

Morocco, humbled by Cameroon in Wednesday's semi-final, had opened the scoring about 20 minutes into the second half when newcomer Hassan Nader scored with a header from a cross after a long run down the left by Mourad Jadrane.

But the host nation failed to impress in the unimpressive encounter which was witnessed by a paltry 15,000 in Casablanca's Mohamed V Stadium.

Not much was at stake, but some of the young Moroccan players used the match as an opportunity to stake a claim for a regular first team place.

Most of the Moroccan profes-

sionals returned to their clubs in Europe immediately after the semi-final defeat.

Newcomer Mustapha Kiddi and goalkeeper Nader combined well up front although Nader missed an easy chance midway through the first half.

Algeria had the best of things early on. They split the Moroccan defence after 15 minutes with sharp passing before Ali Bouafia had a shot well-saved by Morocco's substitute goalkeeper Khalil Azmi.

Morocco dominated the second half, bringing the crowd alive, after only 10 minutes when Maataoui Tjani hit the cross bar with a strong long-range volley. Extra-time failed to separate the North African rivals.

A period of test for baseball players

NEW YORK (AP) — The problem is clear. Hitters are getting too far ahead of pitchers.

The solution is strange. Shrink the strike zone in the rulebook, call higher strikes in the games.

If it sounds confusing, it is. No one is sure what the effect will be, not even the umpires, who are trying to enforce the change in spring training.

"It's second nature to us what a strike is," said Joe Brinkman, an American League umpire for 16 seasons. "Now, we'll have to constantly think about it."

Raising the actual strike zone by a few inches (centimeters) could be the biggest batter-pitch adjustment in baseball since the mound was lowered after 1968.

Here's what's happening: The old rule defined the strike zone as between the batter's armpits and the top of his knees. But in reality, anything above the belt was a ball, particularly in the low-ball National League.

The new rule brings back the letter-high strike. The upper limit will be the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants; the lower limit remains at the knees.

Technically, that is smaller than before. But the idea is that umpires will call those high strikes.

Hitters, who have seen home run totals go up to record rates, are not thrilled at seeing the strike zone go up, too.

"All our lives we've been taught to lay off that high pitch. It's a ball," Wade Boggs carped. "Now, do we have to swing at it?"

This season, Boggs and other batters do.

One-year test
The players' union and owners have agreed to the change for a

one-year test period. After the season, both sides will review the results. Yet even if players don't want to continue the alterations, management can implement them in 1989.

Pitchers are excited about the strike zone becoming a twilight zone up top. Their strikeouts are at an all-time high, but they are giving up runs at an alarming pace.

Last year, 62 pitchers in the American League had earned run averages of over 6.00. Baltimore and Cleveland became the first AL teams with eras over 5.00 since 1956.

The National League, where scoring is about a half-run less because there is no designated hitter, is equally porous.

With higher strikes, those imbalanced numbers could come down.

"I heard about it in the off-season and I like it," said Dwight Gooden, who has always enjoyed success with rising, chest-high fastballs. "So I thought this spring that if I got ahead in the count, I'd go up there but I haven't noticed any difference."

That's because sometimes there isn't any.

"I have not changed my strike zone at all," said Bruce Froemming, an NL umpire for 18 years. "I've always been accused of having a high strike zone, but the League felt, as a group, we weren't calling the higher strike."

Brinkman's zone has expanded.

"I'm calling it about a ball higher," he said. "It doesn't sound like much, but it is. This will be a major adjustment."

"The first game I had behind the plate this spring, I called about seven or eight strikes that I would've called balls last year," Brinkman said. "There were ab-

out nine or 10 the next time."

High strike
Few batters have argued about high strikes in the exhibition season, in contrast to the protests pitchers and managers have lodged about increased balks.

That might change come opening day.

"It's still early in the spring," Brinkman said. "No one is saying much right now. Once the games count, it may not be that way."

No one is sure, and no one knows whether the change will more closely align the strike zones in the two leagues.

AL umpires have a reputation as high-balkers; NL umpires like low strikes.

The umpires, however, say there is little discrepancy.

"I don't think you can differentiate between the two leagues anymore," Froemming said. "A lot of that is because of the inside chest protector."

AL umpires used to employ

bulky outside protectors, which prevented them from tucking behind catchers. The leagues now use the same form-fitting inside protectors and all umpires get the same view.

That doesn't mean everyone has the same view of the new strike zone.

Terry Kennedy, an all-star catcher in both leagues, is caught in the middle. He wants more strikes for his pitchers, fewer strikes as a hitter.

And he doesn't like what he sees from either side.

"Why don't they just leave it alone?" Kennedy said. "Maybe they think pitching is too thin. But this is very unrealistic and not worth doing."

"Don't they have more important things in baseball to worry about instead of stupid rule changes?" he said. "Why don't they worry about the state of owner-player relations instead of trying to change the strike zone?"

India beats N. Zealand, reaches Sharjah Cup finals

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (AP) — India defeated New Zealand by 73 runs Sunday to enter the finals of the Sharjah Cup tournament.

India's Mohinder Amarnath, who cracked an unbeaten 102 and helped India to a massive total of 267 for 6, was declared man of the match.

India beat Sri Lanka Friday in the opening match of the three-way tournament.

The Indians lost the toss for the second time in the tournament and New Zealand put them in to bat.

K. Srikkanth was bowled by W. Watson on the eighth ball of the match and V.V. Raman was caught by M. Greatbatch off Richard Hadlee.

The New Zealanders' opening pace attack overwhelmed the Indians for the first 10 overs. Hadlee, Watson and D. Morrison bowled brilliantly, moving the ball dangerously off the pitch. But Amarnath and N. Sidhu slowly settled down and began to score.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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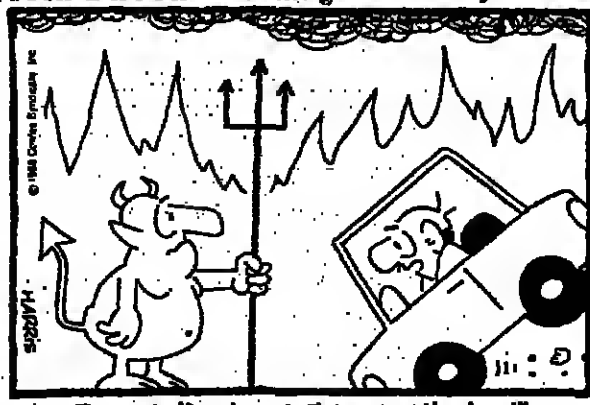
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q-1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KQJ10652 ♠ 93 ♠ 72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ DBI ?
What do you bid now?
- Q-2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KJ762 ♠ 954 ♠ 872
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?
- Q-3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 7954 ♠ KJ762 ♠ 872
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What action do you take?
- Q-4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

- ♠ QJ93 ♠ 952 ♠ A8 ♠ 9874
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
- Q-5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A105 ♠ A98 ♠ Q976 ♠ AK5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q-6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J652 ♠ 83 ♠ KJ1052 ♠ 63
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ DBI Pass ?
What do you bid now?
Look for answers on Monday.

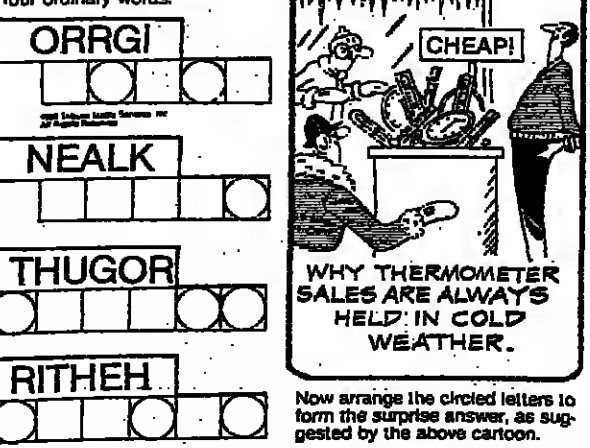
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



ANSWER: WHEN IT'S THEY'RE
Yesterday's Jumbles: TEASE FAIRY TROPHY NICETY
Answer: The little baseball player decided to become a Boy Scout so he could learn to do this—
"PITCH" A TENT

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Richter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Start the new week with the resolution that you will take no risks or make any changes, but will carry through with the sensible decisions you made during the weekend. Pay special attention to details.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) This is not a good time to let others know what your plans for the future are. Be cautious in handling civic affairs and driving tonight.

TALIBUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't bring any guests into your home today, and thereby avoid trouble. You should exercise extreme caution at all times.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) An amusing situation at work will tempt you to run off to something else, but this would not be any better, so stay where you are.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't get into any get-rich-quick schemes, as the only thing you will get is broke. Don't violate your ethics for any reason.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you don't study every phase of a new project, you could make some big mistakes. Stop all that wishful thinking, and be more practical.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your intuition is not up to par at this

time, so don't make any snap judgments. Your mate is in a poor mood, so be soothing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You will have to rely completely on yourself today, as others will be too busy to help you. Avoid any arguments with your friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Find out what is expected of you by those in power, and do what you can to please them. Don't do anything to spoil your reputation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you want to give some attention to a new project, be sure you don't neglect other activities. Take advice from a friend, but carefully.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may feel that you have too many responsibilities ahead of you, but handle them in your own orderly fashion and get good results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't sever your relationship with a good friend over a silly argument. Try to create a more cooperative atmosphere at your place of business.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Take some time to handle those tasks which are not much fun, but have to be taken care of anyway. Don't let criticism bother you.

The Daily Commuter Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Hairless
- 5 Hank
- 10 Hurry
- 14 Winge
- 15 — Hate
- 18 Fencing sword
- 17 Anthrax
- 18 Take up again
- 19 Shore bird
- 20 Front-page
- 22 Piano
- 24 Easy get
- 25 Whirl
- 28 Dense
- 30 Summary
- 31 Do stage work
- 34 Hags
- 36 Knock
- 37 Patriotic sp.
- 38 Sidelick
- 39 Brel
- 41 Leader's love
- 42 Ship's glory
- 43 Macabral
- 44 Theater district
- 46 Comp. pt.
- 47 Ready
- 48 Slumber
- 50 — monster
- 51 Ridge of coral
- 53 Flogging
- 56 Tala
- 57 shortcut
- 60 Flendish
- 61 In reserve
- 62 Social lion?
- 64 Lanky
- 65 Versa feature
- 68 Royal stables
- 67 Building wings
- 69 Use energy
- 68 Palliate

DOWN

- 1 Wild party
- 2 Nautical word
- 3 Zulu's love
- 4 Publication
- 6 Denude
- 8 Sheep
- 7 Shorn bird
- 9 Wrath
- 8 Journal
- 10 Vernish
- 11 Ingredient
- 12 Parched
- 13 Ardor
- 21 One vein
- 23 Dice spots
- 25 Kind of jazz
- 26 Weighing machine
- 27 Hunter constellation
- 29 inn
- 30 Lapse
- 31 An Astaire
- 32 Menu
- 33 Company
- 35 Swindle
- 40 District
- 41 Football game
- 43 Abel's brother
- 45 Words of comprehension
- 46 Merchant
- 50 Liquid measures
- 52 Chris of terms
- 53 Fountain or Rose
- 54 Ellipse
- 55 Window ledge
- 56 Location
- 57 Impression
- 58 Cuts down
- 59 Different
- 62 Gender

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Banks refuse to open

Pro-Noriega troops crack down on strike

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Troops loyal to General Manuel Antonio Noriega raided Panama City's port area, seized control of flour mills and shut down a union hall while the army threatened to use force to reopen the nation's banks.

Banks ignored the threats Saturday, and dockworkers stayed away from work as part of a general strike called by opposition leaders trying to force Noriega from power.

Noriega announced Friday that soldiers would seize flour from the nation's mills, apparently to distribute to Panamanians who have been short of food because of the strike.

Defiant mill owners retaliated by announcing they were donating the flour to the Roman Catholic Church's food programme for the needy, but troops began raiding the mills before donations could begin.

Esther Kwaiben, treasurer of the Church's programme, said more than 1.3 million pounds (590,000 kilograms) of flour stored in the mills apparently had been taken to government warehouses.

At the Harinas Panama Mill, the general manager, Tirso Wolf-schoon, his wife and other company employees were arrested. At General Mills de Panama, troops kicked out all the employees and took over the plant.

Noriega opponents got a boost when groups representing \$5,000 retirees announced they will join nationwide street demonstrations the National Civic Crusade has

called for Monday.

"We will block the streets of this country. Let the president come and speak to us in the street," said retiree Mannel Escudero.

Noriega controls Panama through the 15,000-member defence forces that he heads. But that control could weaken the longer his soldiers go without pay. Their payday was Friday, but because of Panama's current cash crisis, they didn't receive money.

Troops raid capital

Armed troops raided the capital's port before dawn, moving aside several ship containers that had been blocking the entrance-way to the docks since March 14, when the port's 300 workers went out on strike because they had not been paid.

A few hours later, the nearby union headquarters was wired shut and scores of workers who had been keeping vigil disappeared. National Port Director General Diomedes Concepcion denied reports that some had been arrested.

"The port had to be opened," Concepcion told reporters, adding "if not, we are aiding the enemy."

Noriega reiterated threats to force banks to hand over an

estimated \$70 million in their vaults so the government could pay its troops.

But the Panamanian Bankers Association, which groups 90 of the 118 Panamanian and foreign banks operating in this country, rejected the request.

The government's request "does not solve the problem of the fiscal and financial crisis of the nation that has deep political roots," said a statement by the group.

Panama ran short of cash last month after U.S. officials blocked all Panamanian funds in the United States, including revenues from the Panama Canal.

Mexico condemns U.S. pressure

In Cancun, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Saturday condemned efforts to force Noriega to quit and called it a form of interference in that country's internal affairs.

"We urge that through re-election and dialogue it be the Panamanian people who determine their political future," de la Madrid said, referring to the pressures exerted by the Reagan administration on Noriega to relinquish power, although he did not mention the United States by name.

De la Madrid spoke at a news conference after reviewing the situation in Central America during two days of talks with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala in the Caribbean beach resort of Cancun on the tip of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

Ortega calls for U.N. force on Honduras

MANAGUA (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said he had told a United Nations technical commission visiting the Nicaragua-Honduras border that a multinational peacekeeping force was necessary to stabilise the area.

Nicaragua also announced its delegation for a meeting with contra representatives Monday to define where rebel fighters can locate inside Nicaragua under the ceasefire accord reached in Sapoa last week.

Ortega told reporters he had told Gilberto Schlittler, head of the U.N. delegation, Saturday night that "it is important to achieve the stabilisation of the border zone with Honduras, and this is only possible with a multinational force."

The U.N. team inspected the border Thursday and Friday, the scene of a reported incursion into Honduras by Sandinista Army troops pursuing contra rebels. U.S. President Ronald Reagan cited the incursion as the reason for sending 3,100 American troops to Honduras on March 17 at the request of Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo.

Ortega said that without a peacekeeping force, "the United States can continue heating up the border... provoking conflicts, increasing its presence to threaten Nicaragua and... kill the Sapoa accords."

The Sandinistas and contras agreed to a 60-day ceasefire beginning April 1 during their peace talks last week in Sapoa, near the Costa Rican border.

Ortega called on the United States to respect the agreement, saying the United States "must cease its military and logistical aid to the counterrevolutionary forces and simply limit itself to medical aid and basic food" items.

He said Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras had indicated his government was predisposed to "the establishment of a multinational force" on the border in a speech before the Organisation of American States on Nov. 11.

The 100 political prisoners to be released Sunday by the government as part of a gradual amnesty under the accord will be free to remain in Nicaragua or leave, Ortega said.

Jackson blows past Dukakis

DETROIT (AP) — Jesse Jackson won Michigan's primary-like caucus Saturday, blowing past Michael Dukakis for an industrial state victory that tightened the Democratic presidential race. For Richard Gephardt, third place meant the end was near for his White House hopes.

Jackson defeated Dukakis by almost 2:1 by running strongly across the state and winning huge majorities in Detroit. That broad support meant the preacher-turned-politician scored a delegate plurality as well.

"Today is a message of hope," Jackson said in Milwaukee. "People are responding to authenticity and message and soul over just money and mechanics."

"This is not my night alone," he said. "When we, the working people, stand together, we win and we make America stronger."

It was a disappointing night for Dukakis, who has been tried to break away from Jackson to become the frontrunner for the 1988 nomination.

"I don't think I did very well in Michigan," the Massachusetts governor said as he congratulated Jackson.

The news was not all bad for Dukakis as he picked up a win Saturday in North Dakota and was gaining strength in the Iowa county conventions.

Gephardt's hoped-for "Michigan miracle" did not happen.

Aides said the Missouri congressman probably would withdraw from the presidential race and file for reelection to his congressional seat after such poor



Jesse Jackson

results. "We're going to go home tomorrow and meet with our family and we'll have some word for you the first of next week..." Gephardt said in Milwaukee. "We haven't decided anything. We're going to go home and have a family meeting."

With returns from 94 per cent of the voting states in Michigan, Jackson had 107,689 or 55 per cent to 53,337 or 28 per cent for Dukakis. Gephardt had 24,995, or 13 per cent.

Senator Paul Simon of Illinois had 4,069 for 2 per cent and Senator Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee had 3,818 for 2 per cent. Neither man put significant resources into the state.

Jackson won enormous majorities in Detroit, which has a large black population. In the 1st congressional district, Jackson beat Dukakis 25,427 to 1,808 and in

the 13th, the margin was 17,715 to 1,536.

The Michigan raw votes translated into national convention delegates: Initial calculations gave Jackson 61, Dukakis 43, Gephardt 22, and 12 undecided among the 138 pledged delegates.

In North Dakota, the precinct caucus results made this the preliminary split for national convention delegates: Dukakis, 5; Jackson, 3; and Gephardt, 2. Five would go as uncommitted delegates.

These results tightened the delegate race a bit. In the AP delegate count, Dukakis has 596.55 to Jackson's 584.55. Gore had 362.8 delegates, Gephardt 178, Simon 171.5 and uncommitted 371.6.

Dukakis picked up strength in the Iowa county conventions, while Gephardt slipped. Gephardt won the Feb. 8 precinct caucuses there, but he was trailing Dukakis in returns from the county meetings, the next step in the complicated delegate-selection process.

Gephardt's hopes for a win were hurt by the refusal of national labour union leaders to fall in behind his candidacy. He particularly felt the failure to win an endorsement from the United Auto Workers, big supporters of Gephardt's trade policies and the biggest union in the state.

Dukakis built an impressive organisation in this industrial state, where he hoped a win would give him a large share of the delegates as well as a popular vote victory.

Armenian protest strike continues

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet authorities confirmed Sunday that most factories were idle in the disputed Azerbaijani region Nagorno-Karabakh, where dissidents said a three-day protest strike started Friday.

"Public order is being maintained, there is a relative calm in Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region. But the majority of enter-

prises in the regional centre of Stepanakert are idle," the Communist Party Daily Pravda said. Moscow dissident Valery Senderov said in an interview Saturday that a three-day strike in the city had been accompanied by demonstrations demanding return of the territory, governed by Azerbaijan since 1923, to Armenia.

Soviet newspapers Sunday described the situation in other parts of Azerbaijan and Armenia as normal, with people going about the streets as usual and all factories working.

Hundreds of troops and extra police moved into the Armenian capital, Yerevan, Thursday to enforce a ban by the local authorities on demonstrations.

The organisers of a planned mass rally in the city to protest against the Kremlin's refusal to redraw the boundaries of the republics switched tactics after the ban.

Rallies in Latvia, Estonia

Meanwhile, a number of people were detained at rallies in the Soviet Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia Friday, the Soviet news agency TASS said Saturday.

Latvian dissident Ronalds Gaubis earlier told reporters by telephone that he and 14 others were seized by security officials during a rally in Riga in memory of Latvians deported to Siberia by the late Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

Angola reportedly repels S. African advance

LISBON (AP) — Angolan government forces have repelled a South African advance against the strategic southern town of Cuito Cuanavale, killing 18 black South African soldiers and destroying four tanks, the official news agency ANGOP said Saturday.

The agency quoted an unidentified military source as saying South Africa used long-range G-5 artillery pieces, Mirage fighter

planes, helicopters, cannons and mortars in a weeklong drive against the besieged town that ended Wednesday. The report was monitored in Lisbon.

Cuito Cuanavale, 300 kilometres north of Angola's border with South African-ruled South-West Africa, also known as Namibia, has been under attack by South African and UNITA rebels forces since December.

Ershad dissolves cabinet

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad dissolved his 30-member cabinet and officials said he was expected to appoint a smaller government team later Sunday.

"The president has dissolved the cabinet," the state radio said in a brief bulletin.

Ershad had planned to streamline the government following parliamentary elections early this month won by his ruling Jatiya Party with 251 of 300 assembly seats.

The surprise dissolution of the cabinet occurred a day before he was due to start a state visit to Thailand.

"There's no reason why the visit should not take place," a

foreign ministry official said, speaking before news of the reshuffle was announced. "Everything is under control."

"The visit is taking place at the invitation of the Thai royal government and will focus on the close political and economic ties," he added.

Diplomats said the Thailand trip showed he was little shaken by months of opposition protests, including a series of general strikes, aimed at ending his six-year-old rule.

"He wouldn't have undertaken the trip if he faced any serious danger in the country," one Asian diplomat said.

Government sources said a majority of ministers would re-

tain their jobs.

The outgoing cabinet was appointed last August. Two of its most powerful members — Information Minister Anwar Zahid and Health Minister Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury — resigned in February over differences with Ershad about the elections.

Major opposition parties boycotted the violence-packed polls on March 3 as part of a protracted campaign to topple Ershad. A coalition of 21 opposition parties has now asked him to resign by April 8 or face an indefinite general strike.

Police said at least 15 people were killed and 200 injured in bombings and gunbattles between rival groups during the vote.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Thousands march for women's rights

ROME (AP) — Tens of thousands of people marched through central Rome Saturday to call for more job opportunities for women and tougher laws against sexual abuse. Organisers estimated that 100,000 people took part in the mid-afternoon demonstration in which marchers slowly made their way across the city's historic centre. The marchers, men and women, came from all parts of Italy by car, train and special buses. They carried banners, chanted slogans and blew whistles. The demonstration was organised by the country's three main labour federations, whose slogan for the protest was "a job for everyone, a different kind of work, a society without violence." They are seeking more jobs and better working conditions for women, including more flexible schedules for working mothers.

Fiji premier en route to London

LONDON (AP) — Fiji's prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, is travelling to London for a private visit, the British Foreign Office said Sunday, but news reports said he is on a mission to restore links with the British Crown. Ratu Sir Kamisese is scheduled to meet Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe Tuesday, said a Foreign Office spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom. He will meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Tuesday to discuss matters related to Fiji's new constitution, a spokesman for her office said. The Australian Associated Press (AAP) reported he would also see George Newman, the British constitutional law expert who has been advising Fijian President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, to discuss restoring links with the crown. Both AAP and the Observer, a London newspaper, said he was scheduled to meet Sir William Heseltine, private secretary to Queen Elizabeth II, before leaving Britain Thursday.

Guerrillas end 116-day hunger strike

PARIS (R) — Four jailed guerrilla leaders have ended a 116-day hunger strike but aim to continue their campaign to win political prisoner status, their lawyer said Saturday. Bernard Ripert, lawyer for the ringleaders of France's extreme left Action Directe group, told Reuters the four gave up their fast Friday. A Justice Ministry spokesman said the government had made "no deals or promises" with the four who had simply "returned to reason." Ripert said Jean-Marc Rouillan, Nathalie Menigon, Joelle Aubron and Georges Cipriani planned to "continue their struggle in another form." They had refused food from Dec. 1 to force prison authorities to put an end to months of strict isolation in high security jails.

Ramos proposes use of reservists

MANILA (R) — The Philippines defence chief has proposed using the country's one million army reservists in the war against left and right-wing rebel groups. "Our reservists should be ready when called upon for duty during emergencies... to counter the Communist insurgency and the (Muslim) separatist movement and other threats besetting us today," Fidel Ramos told air force reservists. "We are presently not at war, but the time to prepare for war and its prevention is during the time of peace." The defence secretary's call came amidst military warnings that Communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels would increase attacks in the run-up to the 19th anniversary of the founding of the guerrilla army on March 29.

Nicaraguan accord seems a victory for Sandinistas, defeat for Reagan

By George Gedda
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The ceasefire agreement signed this past week between Nicaragua and the contra rebels may represent the most significant turning point for that country since the United States first began backing the insurgents in 1981.

Barring unexpected developments, the agreement could bring the war to an end and leave the ruling Sandinistas with a firm grip on power. The Sandinistas have ruled Nicaragua since their 1979 revolution.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan expended considerable political capital over the years trying to convince his countrymen that Sandinista power, left unchecked, would mean a Soviet beachhead in Central America and grave national security risks for the United States.

But Reagan was unable to muster consistent majority support for his policy. Too many legislators felt that the human costs of sustaining the war were too high when compared with the benefits Reagan saw in trying to overthrow the Sandinistas.

The price paid by Nicaraguans over the past seven years has been obvious. The war has claimed more than 40,000 lives and left the economy in a shambles.

The policy never had much enthusiastic support beyond the conservative wing of Reagan's Republican Party. In Latin America, it was difficult to find any president willing to express support for contra aid, even in those Central American countries which Reagan said would be most affected by the collapse of the rebels.

For all the energy Reagan spent in support of the contras, Congress approved only about \$209 million for them over seven years — equivalent to what the White House says the Soviet Union provides to the Sandinistas every few months. During the he-



Announcing accord: Organisation of American States (OAS) Secretary Jojo Suarez reads the accord signed last week by Nicaragua's Sandinista government and the contra rebels, flanked by (from left)

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and contra leaders Cesar and Adolfo Calero

light of the Vietnam war, the United States committed thousands of troops and spent that much every few days.

For the U.S., it's over

Now, it appears there is little the United States can do to influence events in Nicaragua. The administration has used extensive diplomatic and economic pressures to force the Sandinistas' hand with minimal results, and now it has been deprived of what Reagan and the contras believe is their most effective lever — military pressure. The best contras can hope for now is a humanitarian aid package that Congress consider next week.

Given its past statements, the White House may try to take advantage of the new mood of reconciliation in Nicaragua and explore how to achieve a more normal relationship with the Sandinistas. There have been no se-

rious talks between the two governments in more than three years.

There are several theoretical scenarios under which what was done last week could be undone, and the war resumed. Under

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White House prodding, Congress would decide to commit itself next week to an early vote on additional contra military aid if the peace process breaks down and Reagan makes an aid request.

But it appears a majority in Congress, worn down by the contra aid issue, does not want to give the president that authority.

Contra surrender likely

The most likely outcome is a

contra surrender to terms set forth by the Sandinistas during talks due to start April 6 on a permanent truce.

Under the agreement, the contras will be allowed to take their arms with them to mutually agreed ceasefire zones. But their supplies are running low, there is little prospect for replenishment, and nothing prevents the Sandinista Army from surrounding these zones while talks on a permanent settlement are carried out. The contras will be at a severe disadvantage.

After a year in which the contras had emerged as an effective fighting force, dispatching thousands of troops into Nicaragua from sanctuaries in Honduras. 1988 has marked a steady downward spiral.

The U.S. House of Representatives defeated a key contra aid vote Feb. 3, and Congress

ments Feb. 29. The contras agreed less than a month later to a ceasefire proposal that fell far short of their demands even though they won some concessions from the Sandinistas, including the promise of free speech and contra participation in a national dialogue.

The White House has praised the agreement, but this is one instance in which there is a wide gap between the publicly stated view and the private assessment.

Officials felt it was inappropriate to criticise the contras for signing an agreement after a lack of U.S. steadfastness forced their hand.

"The contras made their own decision, and they made it courageously; and we must not do anything to undo it," said White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker in an interview on News Network.

COLUMN

New hope for paralysed men

DETROIT (R) — A U.S. research team is making the dream of fathering a child a reality for men paralysed by spinal cord injury and others who have lost the ability to ejaculate semen because of permanent neurological damage. The technique, developed in the 19th century for use in animal husbandry and refined at the University of Michigan, induces the release of semen with a low-voltage impulse delivered by a rectal probe. Conception is achieved either through artificial insemination or in vitro fertilisation. Researchers say the procedure, which is called "Electroejaculation," may also help those with testicular cancer, multiple sclerosis or a variety of other disorders that block the nerve signal required to trigger normal ejaculation. Electroejaculation was adapted for use in humans in about 1940 but until the University of Michigan research team, led by urologist Carol Bennett, began in 1985 to refine the technique, its success rate was patchy.

Mete it out, judge

CAIRO (AP) — A Cairo court has sentenced three workers to death by hanging and ordered three others be imprisoned for life for raping a 15-year-old student. Egyptian newspapers reported Saturday. The sentence, issued Friday, is the most severe punishment to be meted out in recent memory on so many convicts in a single rape case. "If there were a more severe punishment in the law, I would have meted it out on you," newspaper accounts quoted the court's president, Judge Antonou Basili, as addressing the convicts before reading the sentence. The convicts abducted the girl last August while walking in a Cairo street and took her to an apartment where they raped her after overcoming a relative who was in her company.

Revenge of the monkeys

RIYADH (AP) — A clan of monkeys roaming Saudi Arabia's southern desert attacked a motorist who ran over one of their number, the Okaz newspaper reported Sunday. It said the motorist was driving to work when he killed the monkey on a highway in the Khams Mesheh region. The paper did not identify the man. It quoted him as saying the other monkeys chased his car, but gave up when they could not catch it. The man said that as he drove home later on the same road, he found the monkeys still gathered round the body. When they spotted the car, they jumped on it and smashed the windows with their bare hands. The driver succeeded in evading them and as he sped off, saw the monkeys dragging away the body of their dead companion into nearby mountains, the paper added.

Pole-sitter lands

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AP) — Melissa L. Sanders climbed into the bucket of a firefighters extension ladder with her pet cat and returned to earth Thursday after a record 517 days sitting atop a 13-metre pole. "My knees are wobbly but I feel great," said Sanders, embraced by her mother, Mauri Rose Sanders. "Without the cat, I would never have made it," Sanders, 19, broke the world record Feb. 25 when she overtook the 488-day mark set by Mark Sutton of Victoria, British Columbia. She now is in the Guinness Book of World Records. Her fiancé, Keith Seal, 25, greeted her on the ground. They met after Seal read an article about her effort to raise money for cancer research and telephoned her. About 1,000 people gathered to watch Sanders' descent from the shack she called home for 1½ years.

Soldier of Fortune gets caught

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — A U.S. federal judge Thursday upheld a \$9.4 million judgment against Soldier of Fortune magazine for publishing an advertisement which led to the murder of a Texas woman by a paid hitman. Sandra Black was killed in 1985 by John Wayne Hearn, who had been hired by her husband Robert after he had seen the ad, which referred to ex-marines who were seeking "high-risk assignments" in the United States or abroad. Judge David Hittner ordered the magazine to pay the award to the woman's mother and son after a jury earlier this month found it negligent for printing the ad. Both men are now in jail. Black has been sentenced to death.